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HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

REPORT

ON THE

MANUSCRIPTS

OF

J. B. FORTESCUE, Esq.,

PRESERVED AT

DROPMORE.

VOL. VIII.

Presented to Parliament by Command of Mis Majesty.



LONDON:
PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased, either directly or through any Bookseller, from WYMAN & SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, E.C.; or OLIVER & BOYD, Tweeddale Court, Edinburgh; or E. PONSONBY, Ltd., 116 Grafton Street, Dublin.

THE HEREFORD TIMES LIMITED, MAYLORD STREET, HEREFORD. 1912.

[Cd. 5732.] Price d.



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ERRATA.

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME VII.

Pages viii, ix, xxii, xxxii, xxxiv, xxxv, xliv, for Addison read Addington.

Page lxix, line 36 for Olmutz read Brunn.

" lxx, " 21 " Praslin " Pratzen.

" lxxi, " 2 " Bohemia " Moravia.

This Report has been prepared and edited, on behalf of the Historical Manuscripts Commissioners, by Mr. Walter Fitzpatrick. The Index has been compiled by Mr. R. H. Brodie.

INTRODUCTION.

The correspondence contained in this volume covers a period of eleven months—from the beginning of February, 1806, to the end of that year. It deals with only a part of the brief life of the "All the Talents" Ministry. For although the entire existence of that Administration did not quite extend to sixteen months, the papers left by Lord-Grenville to illustrate its various aims, phases, and aspects exceed the compass of an ordinary volume. This Preface is therefore only a survey of the points of its foreign and domestic policy which chiefly claim the reader's attention during the

year 1806.

Perhaps no Ministry was ever formed in England under greater difficulties, arising partly from its own discordant elements, partly from other conditions of the political situation. Fox and Grenville had been strenuously opposed for twenty years on the two main questions of British policy during that period—the course pursued by Great Britain in regard to the French Revolution, and in regard to Ireland. And although a common sense of the public needs had led them to combine against the Addington administration, yet when Pitt returned to office to carry on war with greater vigour against Napoleon, the old divergence of opinion on foreign policy revived in full force. A letter written by Lord Grenville to the Marquis of Buckingham on January 7, 1806, on the very eve of the meeting of Parliament, expresses the intense repugnance with which he shrank from a proposal to join Fox in turning out Pitt and forming a new Ministry.1 It was only, indeed, on learning a few days later Fox's view that England, since the defeat of Austerlitz, had no longer any option but to pursue the war, that he yielded to the proposal, in deference to the advice of his brother and other political friends. Again, both Fox and Grenville had treated Lord Sidmouth, whom they now invited to join them on the principle of giving the new government the widest possible basis, with an avowed contempt which had been deeply resented by him and his followers, and which it was not easy for even a good-natured but vainglorious political leader to forgive. Moreover, they both differed from him irreconcilably on Irish policy, the most urgent and important domestic question of the day. The new Ministry could expect little support from the King. This was one of the worst aspects of the situation. whole tenor of his reign must have brought clearly to their minds that an English administration distasteful to

¹ Court and Cabinets of George III.

George III. was a house built on the sand. And his dislike of the one which had now been forced on him sprang from personal as well as political motive. His hatred of Fox was a plant of ancient growth, with many and deep roots. Lord Grenville's imperious and unbending temper had often chafed his own during the last years of Pitt's great ministry. It seems to have brought vividly to his Majesty's mind the intolerable yoke of George Grenville in the early days of his reign. Not only had Fox and Lord Grenville championed the cause of Catholic emancipation, their political programme included as a prominent feature the reform of military administration, bringing that department of public business more directly under the control of a responsible Minister. But the King resented such an interference with the army as an invasion of the royal prerogative. It was only, indeed, on receiving an explicit assurance from Lord Grenville that no change of the existing system would be attempted without his previous concurrence, that he accepted the new Administration, which found in his favourite son, the Duke of York, a vigilant enemy, entrenched at the Horse Guards. Its accession to office the Duke declared to be "a public calamity."1 Nor could it hope to derive much advantage from the ostentatious patronage of the Prince of Wales. The Prince's unpopularity, his unstable character, his manifest desire to use the Ministry for his own ends, and especially to rid him of his wife, whose indiscretions had already become notorious, made his favour, to Lord Grenville at least, more often embarrassing than helpful. Then in regard to the distribution of offices, as the number of candidates with valid claims far exceeded the places available, selection necessarily provoked jealousies and ill-humour.

It was perhaps with the view of assuaging the pangs of exclusion by spreading them over a wider area that the Cabinet was limited at first to eleven members. His great position and unrivalled qualifications assigned to Fox the lead of the House of Commons and the conduct of foreign affairs. An equally unanimous call compelled Lord Grenville to take the Treasury, much against his will. There was nothing of political coquetry in this reluctance. For, besides his deep and even painful sense of the want of some of the qualities that go to the making of a leader of men, there was a peculiar circumstance which seemed even to not unfriendly critics to disable him from filling the office. Twelve years before, he had accepted from Pitt the permanent post of Auditor of the Exchequer on the understanding that he should not draw its salary in addition to his emoluments as Secretary of State.² It was a provision against retirement from active service. The Auditorship had been created, as Mr. Rose pointed out in the House of Commons, to

¹ Diary of the Earl of Malmesbury. 2 Introduction, Vol. III, p. 27.

form an independent check on public expenditure, and therefore its duties could not properly be discharged by a First Lord of the Treasury. But as Lord Grenville had little private fortune of his own, he could not afford to give it up. After some unpleasant wrangling in the House of Commons, Mr. Percival, the Attorney General, suggested a way out of the difficulty, which Fox adopted. Parliament passed a Bill appointing a trustec responsible to itself for the discharge of the functions of Auditor, and responsible for the official income to Lord Grenville. This impediment being removed, Lord Grenville became Prime Minister, and other vacancies were gradually filled up. Fox brought into the Cabinet Mr. Grey, soon afterwards known as Lord Howick in consequence of an earldom being conferred on his father, as First Lord of the Admiralty; Lord Moira as Master of the Ordnance; and Lord Henry Petty, a younger son of his old antagonist the Marquis of Lansdowne, as Chancellor of the Exchequer. Lord Grenville introduced his old colleagues Lord Spencer as Secretary for Home Affairs, and Mr. Windham as Secretary for the Colonies and War. Both leaders welcomed Lord FitzWilliam as President of the Council. The high office of Lord Chancellor having been refused by the Master of the Rolls and by the Chief Justice, Lord Ellenborough, fell to Mr. Erskine, a somewhat unsteady Whig, the most famous advocate at the English Bar, but in low repute as a lawyer. Lord Sidmouth, having a considerable following in the House of Commons, claimed two scats in the Cabinet. He intended them for himself and his principal adherent Lord Buckinghamshire, who had sat in the Addington Cabinet as War Secretary, and afterwards with him for a few months in the Cabinet of Pitt. But Lord Buckinghamshire seems to have incurred such general dislike, without acquiring reputation as an Minister, that he was shunted by general to the subordinate post of Joint Postmaster Carysford; and to satisfy the claims Sidmouth, now Lord Privy Seal, Lord Chief Justice Ellenborough was selected to complete the Cabinet. arrangement, for which the case of Lord Mansfield was thought to afford a not too remote precedent, provoked severe comment in both Houses of Parliament, and added little to the strength of the Government. In regard to employments below Cabinet rank, Lord Grenville showed himself mindful of old obligations, and contributed to his own ease at the Treasury, by making Lord Auckland President of the Board of arrangement satisfied Auckland's personal The expectations; and his wide knowledge of matters of commerce and finance, and unusual acquaintance with political eddies and undercurrents, enabled him on many occasions to give useful advice to the Prime Minister. But many other politicians of great note had to accept posts inferior in rank to their just expectations, or to remain outside the

official eircle. Neither Sheridan, as Treasurer of the Navy, nor Lord Minto, as President of the Board of Control, had a seat in the Cabinet. Whitbread, Tierney, Francis, even Thomas Grenville, who more than any other might fairly regard the new Government as his own handiwork, remained in the ranks. And the extravagant pretensions of Lord Sidmouth's followers, nearly all, with the exception of Mr. Vansittart, who became Secretary of the Treasury, men of little ability or weight, excited much angry murmuring among excluded Whigs and Grenvillites. In fact, it required Fox's singular gifts and powers as a political leader, and Grenville's absolute sincerity, and determination at every personal sacrifice to make the experiment a success, to bring their comprehensive non-party system of Government into working order. When established it had to face an outlook in the last degree discouraging. The battle of Austerlitz on December 2, followed immediately by the retreat of the Russian Emperor to St. Petersburgh; the treaty of Vienna between France and Prussia on December 15; and that of Presburg between France and Austria on December 28, had laid the Continent at the feet of Napoleon. The French Emperor, now relieved by victory from the financial embarrassments which had so severely hampered his former efforts, was a more formidable adversary than ever. On the other hand, Pitts' lavish war expenditure had strained national credit, without increasing reserves of national strength to repel invasion. In Ireland the Act of Union had aggravated all the eauses of disaffection, and put the old machinery of government out of joint.²

These various disadvantages were matters of public notoriety. There were other circumstances deriving force from Lord Grenville's personal character and environment, and known to few outside the Ministerial circle, which made for discord, and sometimes even imperilled the stability of his Administration. Although cold and reserved in general intercourse, Lord Grenville's relations with his own family and with one or two particular friends were informed by affection of unusual depth and sensibility. His devotion to Lord Buckingham, to whose early and constant assistance he attributed mainly the prosperous course of his life, time and the severest trials had only served to augment. The friends to whom he was most attached appear to have been Pitt and Marquis Wellesley. Curiously enough, private sentiment in each of those three cases acted as a disturbing element in his new political relations. Buckingham's character is easily read in the pages of the Dropmore Correspondence. To some amiable and even admirable qualities it united many narrow prejudices which he cherished as principles, a querulous, exacting temper,

Thomas Grenville to Lord Grenville, February 7.
 Lord Redesdale to Mr. Wickham, January 30, p. 35.

and an intense egotism which invested his personal aims with all the importance of great public objects. These aims, or rather claims, had been for many years a dukedom, or as a step to that dignity, a seat in the Cabinet. The former he reluctantly deferred, after repeated refusals by the King. The latter Pitt, warned by a short but painful experience of Lord Buckingham as a colleague in the early days of his first Ministry, contrived to evade by sending him to Ireland as Lord Lieutenant, decorating him with the Garter and a marquisate, and making his youngest brother Secretary of State. Fox at the formation of the "All the Talents" Ministry won the good-will of the Marquis by offering him a seat in the new Cabinet. Fortunately for all concerned, his family dissuaded him from accepting the proposal on the ground of his failing health. But as chief of the Grenville interest, in return for this self-denial and his constant solicitude for their advancement, he jealously expected from his brothers, what they indeed willingly gave in all ordinary circumstances, entire confidence in regard to their public views and aims, general deference to his advice, and a large share of the official patronage at their disposal. This habit of mind took no account of Lord Grenville's altered position as Prime Minister, of the absorbing anxieties of a man morbidly conscious of its responsibilities, and reticent from a sense of its obligations. The silence of official preoccupation and restraint soon aroused in the Marquis unjust suspicions of ingratitude, which found vent in bitter reproaches. Lord Grenville's answer discloses a state of mental agony under this treatment which is almost incredible.¹ He solemnly protests before heaven that it was only in deference to the Marquis that he had accepted an office which had proved to be a bed of torture, and which he would quit at the first opportunity. And in a touching appeal he implores his brother not to aggravate his misery by depriving him of the fraternal affection which had been the chief happiness of his life. Lord Temple, the Marquis's eldest son, appears to have shared his father's feeling of discontent. Thomas Grenville, who, although inferior to the Prime Minister in ability, excelled both his brethren in amiability and in generous instincts, and who now served the ministry from which he had been excluded with unselfish devotion, exerted all his influence as peace-maker; and seems gradually to have brought Lord Buckingham, for a time at least, to a more rational frame of mind.

As to jars produced by collision between Lord Grenville's affection for Pitt and the political views of some of his colleagues, it will perhaps surprise some readers of this volume to learn that, owing to what Fox termed his "unreasonable personal delicacies," he was quite prepared to break up the new government rather than suffer any slur to be cast, even by

¹ Lord Grenville to Marquis of Buckingham, May 9, 1806.—Court and Cabinets of George III.

implication, on the administrations of his old leader; not only on the first, of which he had himself been a member, but even on the second, to which he had been publicly opposed. Flagrant abuses appear to have crept into the practice of granting reversions of lucrative offices. Lord Henry Petty as Chancellor of the Exchequer, after discussing the matter with the Prime Minister, gave notice in the House of Commons of motions to abate the evil, without, so far as appears, reflecting on any individual. But this well-meant proceeding elicited an excited letter from Grenville to Fox dated February 28, and Fox's admirable reply of March 1. Again, not Fox alone, but members of the Government not belonging to his party, indignant at what they considered the desperate straits to which the country had been brought by Pitt's reckless policy, represented to Lord Grenville that the Ministry owed it to the public and to themselves to fix the blame of the situation on the authors of it. This seemed the more needful as Pitt's colleagues, in their anxiety to shift the odium of failure to the Austrian Government, had challenged discussion by hastily presenting to Parliament a selection of official papers relating to the late Coalition; thereby giving just offence to the Emperor of Russia and other foreign powers concerned, whose consent had not been asked.2 Grenville's answer to Fox on this occasion is excellent in tone and in argument, and put an end to further discussion on the subject. It speaks well for the spirit which guided the Cabinet that, in deference to sensibilities, with which probably not one of them really sympathisesd, all Lord Grenville's colleagues should have refrained, often under considerable provocation, from any hostile criticism of the policy or conduct of their predecessors and opponents.

Pitt was only a passing difficulty among Ministers new to each other and to office: Lord Wellesley was a permanent cause of strife, that never ceased from troubling Administration. He was Lord Grenville's earliest most intimate friend; the most highly gifted by nature, the most richly endowed by education and taste, of a remarkable Irish family. Nearly of the same age, close companions at Eton and Oxford, William Grenville and Lord Mornington had both entered public life in the dawn of manhood. when Grenville began his official career as Chief Secretary of his eldest brother Lord Temple, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, under the Shelburne Ministry, Mornington, who then figured in Irish politics as a patriot of the school of Grattan, linked his political fortunes with those of the English party to which his friend belonged, and became the exponent of its policy in the Irish House of Lords.3 Grenville introduced him to Lord Temple and to Pitt, both of whom were captivated

3 Introduction to Vol. I, p. xv.

Auckland to Grenville, February 10. Fox to Grenville, April 18.
 Lord G. L. Gower to Fox, March 2.—F.O. Despatches.

by his brilliant and attractive qualities. Through the interest of Temple, now Marquis of Buckingham, he obtained a seat in the British House of Commons. Pitt rescued him from the slough of Irish politics, by placing him at the Treasury Board and at the Board of Control; and finally sent him to India as Governor General. Nor was this all. If a somewhat obscure family, without wealth or political influence, could boast of the unique distinction of four brothers obtaining six English and two Irish peerages, ranging from baron to duke, for eminent services to the Crown, this result was, in the three most conspicuous cases, due in large measure to Grenville's steady friendship, which opened to them opportunities of service and advancement in the earlier stages of their careers when such help was most needed. Lord Mornington's letters in this collection overflow with

grateful acknowledgment of favours thus conferred.

When Mornington sailed for India, in November, 1797, the East India Company was heavily burthened with debt, resulting from French rivalry, and the devastating inroads of Hyder Ali, Sultan of Mysore. Peace and retrenchment were therefore the chief aims of its policy. Lord Cornwallis had done much to promote them by his victories over Tippoo, Hyder Ali's successor, in a war forced on the Company; by the friendly relations he had cultivated with the independent princes of India; and by an economical His successor was expected administration. to tread in his footsteps. But neither the hour nor the man favoured those aspirations. Although French power in India had been utterly broken, there was good ground for suspicion that intrigues with the object of restoring it were carried on by the Governor of the Mauritius with native rulers, several of whom employed French officers to train their armies. Early in 1798 Bonaparte invaded Egypt. Rumours of vast schemes of conquest he meditated, embracing the subjugation of India, found ready credence in the excited fears of ruling English politicians. Of those fears and suspicions, Mornington, a man of ardent imagination and imperial views, ambitious of fame, and conscious of great ability, had his full share. Under the strange dual system devised by Pitt, or suggested by Dundas, as a substitute for Burke's great India Bill, the Governor-General found himself at once chief scrvant a trading corporation, which had, as particular objects, reduction of debt and increase of dividends, the British Crown. and guardian of the interests of As was natural to a man of Mornington's character, the larger duties of his office engrossed all his attention. He bent all his thoughts and energy to baffle French designs, and to secure British supremacy by extending it over the entire peninsula. In the pursuit of that policy he displayed a capacity for large conceptions, a fertility of resource in carrying them into execution, which might have moved the admiration

of Bonaparte himself. For a long time they commanded success. His brothers, Henry, who had adopted diplomacy as a profession under Lord Grenville's auspices and accompanied Mornington to India as private secretary; and Arthur, who now won his first laurels in war, were among the chief instruments he employed. Having first by the conquest of Mysore swept away the only formidable foe of British rule in southern India, he initiated, or adopted, the system of bringing all the native princes into dependence on the Company by compelling them to receive British Residents in their capitals, and to cede part of their territory to supply revenue for the payment of native armies commanded by British officers. But he seems to have pursued this comprehensive scheme with a disregard for existing treaties, for the authority and situation of the East India Company, even for an Act of Parliament passed by Pitt himself disabling a Governor-General from engaging in offensive warfare without the concurrence of his Council, that could not fail to bring him trouble in England. imperial spirit pervaded every part of his administration; his style of living, his public buildings, his admirable but costly scheme for the education of Indian civil servants. Mindful only of what seemed to him befitting the ruler of a great empire, he assumed a state and magnificence altogether unknown to his predecessors; which seemed to aim at recalling to the native mind the vanished glories of Aurungzeebe. Unfortunately also, prosperity and the adulation that attends it, forced out into baneful luxuriance the weaknesses of his character. Vanity, clamorous for applause and honours, exaggerating desert, resenting fair criticism as unjust depreciation, engrossed, and banished all the old charm of his letters from, those written by him in India to Pitt and Grenville. Personal grievances bemoaned in them as supremely tragical only appeal to the reader's sense of the ridiculous, as mole-hills magnified into mountains. He complained bitterly of the Irish marquisate conferred on him after the conquest of Mysore, instead of an English marguisate conferred on his predecessor, Lord Cornwallis, not only as a personal affront, but as a blow struck at British supremacy by degrading him in the eyes of all India; as if India knew or cared about the difference. In these melancholy revelations of character the vivid imagination remains in full force, but we do not find a trace of the lively humour which chastened it in his earlier letters to Grenville, combined with it to make them so delightful. The Company, finding its patronage usurped, its regulations over-ridden, its revenues dissipated in what it considered wasteful display, its debt increased from 13 millions to over 30 millions sterling, did not conceal its dissatisfaction. The directors annulled the Governor-General's (now Marquis Wellesley) irregular appointments; censured his extravagance and usurpation of authority; refused to sanction his new scheme of education

as involving expenditure they could not afford. But while success continued to crown his aggressive policy towards the native chiefs, they paid homage to his great public services by refusing to accept his proffered resignation. This policy, however, found able opponents in the British Parliament. Francis, the old accuser of Warren Hastings, and other members of the House of Commons conversant with Indian affairs, made Wellesley's dealings with the native princes. a subject of inquiry and hostile comment. In the House of Lords, on the other hand, his whole administration had an enthusiastic champion and panegyrist in Lord Grenville, who lost no opportunity of exalting its merits, and could see in it no defect. At length, in 1804, a terrible reverse, which, through a blunder of Lord Lake, the Commander-in-Chief, befel the British arms in conflict with the Mahratta chief Holkar, exhausted the forbearance of the East India Company. Pitt found it necessary to recall Wellesley. And at the united solicitation of the British Government and the Board of Directors, Lord Cornwallis, now old and worn with long service, returned to India to repair a misfortune which threatened most disastrous consequences.

It should be said, however, that although his craving for applause betrayed a certain want of strength and elevation in Wellesley's character, there was nothing in it mean or sordid. He never indulged his weakness at the expense of any who co-operated loyally in his labours. In his dealings with subordinates, he showed himself generous alike in awarding praise for success, and in assuming responsibility for failure. And although he may have expended the revenues of the Company with, as they thought, too profuse a hand, no suspicion attached to him of diverting a fraction of them to enrich himself or serve any purpose of his own. In fact his personal disinterestedness passed the bounds of prudence. He refused a grant of 100,000l. made to him by the Company from the spoils of Seringapatam, in order not to diminish the prize-money of the army employed in the siege. Lord Cornwallis was able to say in one of his letters that after providing liberally for every expense that concerned the dignity and splendour of his great office, he had been able to save 90,000l. from its appoint-Wellesley went to India poor, and after remaining as Governor-General for an equal period, returned no richer than

Wellesley arrived in England barely in time to take a last leave of Pitt. His subsequent career was a long course of disappointment. Autocratic rule had, in fact, unfitted him for the rough struggles of English party life, with its limited aims, its constant checks, and partial successes. Coming home with a dominating sense of the great part he had played, the little interest his arrival aroused beyond a large circle of private friends, mortified him exceedingly. Englishmen in general, engrossed by the stupendous conflict which

convulsed Europe, in those days of Ulm, Trafalgar and Austerlitz, had little attention to spare for remote and obscure struggles in Asia. Lord Grenville at once invited the help of his old friend in forming an administration, and Wellesley aecepted a seat in the new Cabinet. At first there seemed to be no obstacle to this arrangement. The board of directors, satisfied by Wellesley's recall, and, after the untimely death of Cornwallis, by the temporary appointment of Sir George Barlow, a permanent servant of their own, as Governor-General, did not carry the quarrel further. Francis and other Whig members, influenced by the Prince of Wales and by personal hopes which the return of their party to power inspired, refrained from further proceedings against the late Governor-General in the House of Commons. But the cause of the native princes found an advocate in Mr. Paull, an almost unknown member, who had recently returned from India deeply impressed by the wrongs of the Nabob of Oude. Lord Wellesley contended that this attack on his government was a mere outcome of envy and malice, having as organ an obscure adventurer—"the tailor" Wellesley called him who aimed at forcing himself into notoriety by an unpatriotic appeal to popular ignorance and prejudice. Lord Grenville, and his nephew Lord Temple, Wellesley's leading champion in the House of Commons, adopted this view of the case without reserve. They wished to quash the charges at as undeserving of consideration. Neither Lord Sidmouth's followers nor members of the late Ministry lent any countenance to Paull. But Fox, Windham, and other antagonists of Warren Hastings saw the matter in a different light. Without pronouncing an opinion on the case, they held that, in the public interest, grave charges of misgovernment, to which the East India Company lent tacit sanction, should be investigated; and that Paull should have a fair hearing. This opinion, which had much independent support in the House of Commons, including that of the little band composed of Wilberforce, Bankes and others known as "the Saints," prevailed; and excluded Wellesley from the Cabinet until the issue had been determined. Paull's ignorance of the forms of Parliament, and the difficulties thrown in the way of his obtaining copies of the official correspondence he relied on as proving his allegations, protracted the inquiry to an inordinate length. Lord Temple and Sir Arthur Wellesley protested loudly against repeated delays. But Paull's courage and evident sincerity appealed to the equity of the House of Commons, and saved him from being crushed by the powerful forces arrayed against him. The conduct of the defence was taken out of Temple's hands by more judicious advisers on the front Opposition bench, and the final decision was deferred to a future session of Parliament. During all this time Lord Wellesley's intense irritation, working incessantly on the sympathy of the Prime Minister, was a

constant peril to the harmony of the Cabinet. How grave it might become at any moment may be gathered from a correspondence between Lord Grenville and Mr. Windham in Mr. Bond, Judge-Advocate-General and a follower of Lord Sidmouth, having expressed an intention to resign, Windham reminded Lord Grenville of the claims Dr. Lawrence, not only on account of superior qualifications for the office, but also as a valued friend of Burke and of himself, who had been excluded from it when the Ministry was formed by political exigencies. Lord FitzWilliam wrote to press the appointment on the same grounds. But just at this conjuncture Lawrence, during a debate in the House of Commons, condemned Lord Wellesley's policy in India. And Lord Grenville for this reason, while fully admitting the strength of the doctor's claims on Government and his fitness for this particular employment, withheld his consent. This objection drew a warm remonstrance from Windham; and the rejoinder shows with what passionate fervour Grenville espoused the cause "of his oldest and most intimate friend." The dispute was a violent clashing of principle as well as of feeling, the parties to it being unusually tenacious in their friendships and their Bond's decision to remain in office probably averted

the disruption of the Ministry.

On the whole, however, its early course was smooth. It had the support of public opinion. Opposition in Parliament was disorganised. There was no member of Pitt's last Cabinet sufficiently eminent to fill the vacant place of leader. Many, indeed, of the most considerable men of the Tory party, such as Lords Lonsdale and Carrington, and even Canning, in spite of his restless ambition, looking on Lord Grenville as Pitt's most fitting successor, were willing to give his political experiment a fair trial. Age and infirmity depressed the King's energies and made him desirous of repose. Being unable to form another administration, and having received satisfactory explanations in regard to their projects of army reform, he frankly accepted his new advisers, and discountenanced intrigue against them. Grenville had one able and implacable personal foe, who plotted against the new Government with hostility that never slept till he wrought its overthrow. This was the Earl of Malmesbury. They had lived many years in close official relations without being friends. But Malmesbury's active enmity was aroused in 1800 by what he regarded, not without reason, as a public slight offered to him by the Foreign Secretary at the close of a long and highly distinguished diplomatic career. During the Conference at Lille in 1797 Malmesbury, representing Great Britain, had secretly concerted with Pitt to accept terms of peace with France precluded by Grenville's official instructions. When the question arose in 1800 of another Congress at Luneville, Grenville, not taking sufficient account of Malmesbury's services and expectations, silently passed him over, and named his brother Thomas Grenville to represent

George III. Malmesbury asked an explanation from Pitt, who made him an Earl. But Lord Grenville's offence rankled in the old diplomatist's mind, and all intercourse between them ceased. In this feeling of aversion originated the theory announced in Malmesbury's Diary¹ that Grenville's political course after Mr. Addington's accession to office was governed by an ungrateful desire "to be emancipated from Pitt's supremacy"; that under this "ruling motive," stronger than "ties of blood and past obligations," he formed a connexion with Fox as opening freer scope to his personal ambition. Malmesbury grounds this surmise solely on his own observation. It was, however, the observation of a stranger, and a hostile critic. It had no countenance from Canning, Lord Camden, Lord Chatham, the Bishop of Lincoln, or any other common friend of Pitt and Grenville. The conjecture and the conclusions built on it are disproved by the correspondence published in Volume VII. of the Dropmore Papers. Malmesbury had been of late years in high favour at Court. He lived in close intimacy with the Duke of York, and appears to have exercised almost absolute sway over the feeble will and failing faculties of the Duke of Portland. His interesting Diary tells us how he strove in vain to hold Pitt's followers together in organized opposition to his successors; with what vigilant perseverance he intrigued to bring the Coalition Ministry into discredit with the King and the public; and how futile all his efforts proved until the revival of the Catholic question gave him the opportunity which had hitherto been wanting. No doubt, also, this persistent hostility was animated by unavowed ambition. During Pitt's last Ministry, and again when that of the Duke of Portland was forming in 1807, he seems to have cherished the hope, while professing reluctance on the score of increasing deafness, of entering the Cabinet as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Early in spring 1806 a sudden change came over the political outlook. Great Britain found itself at war with Prussia, and negotiating with France. Count Haugwitz, as has already been told, had been despatched by the King of Prussia at the end of November, 1805, to Napoleon's camp in Moravia to impose on France terms of peace which had been agreed on by the Allied Powers. On December 15, under the influence of the crushing defeat of the coalition at Austerlitz, he concluded at Vienna a treaty of alliance, offensive and defensive, between France and Prussia, which gave the latter power the Electorate of Hanover in exchange for Anspach, Luxembourg and Cleves. But Frederick William III shrank from the shame and odium he must incur at home and abroad by such a sudden change of policy; which, moreover, would involve him in a quarrel with George III., and possibly also with the Emperor Alexander of Russia. By the advice of a Council of State, to which he summoned the Duke of Brunswick and Marshal Mollendorf, he modified the treaty of Vienna in

Diary and Correspondence, May 1804,
 Introduction to Volume VII,

essential particulars before attaching to it his signature. The words "offensive and defensive" preceding "alliance" were struck out, and possession of Hanover was accepted only till the conclusion of a general peace. Haugwitz was despatched on a second mission to Napoleon to obtain his consent to those modifications; official assurances were given to the British Government by Baron Hardenberg that Hanover should not be annexed to Prussia except with the free consent of George III.; and the Duke of Brunswick went to St. Petersburgh to explain the necessities of the situation to the Czar, to attenuate as far as possible the meaning of the treaty with France, and to persuade Alexander to become a party to it. Without waiting for Napoleon's answer, Frederick William recalled his troops from the advanced positions they had taken up in Franconia, which were immediately occupied by the French; disbanded half of the army he had called out in the previous autumn; and dismissed the Russian auxiliaries the Czar had sent to his aid. Haugwitz, however, met with a rough reception in Paris. Napoleon declared the treaty of Vienna at an end, and would only consent to renew it on harder conditions. Hanover, he declared, was a French conquest, which the King of Prussia must accept from him unconditionally or not at all; and in return for it must join France in war against England. Haugwitz, in order to avoid a conflict to which he knew Prussia to be unequal, signed a new treaty embodying the terms thus dictated, on February 15; and Frederick William, by the advice of the great majority of his Council, reluctantly ratified it, as a defensive alliance. Hanover, in fact, was an object of supreme desire to Prussian statesmen of all shades of opinion. Baron Hardenberg, however, retired, and the direction of foreign affairs at Berlin was resumed by Count Haugwitz. The King of Prussia represented the Treaty of Paris, which was officially communicated to the British Government at the end of March, as a sacrifice made for the patriotic object of excluding the French from North Germany. A few afterwards, proclamations of Count Schulemberg, Governor of Hanover, announced the annexation of that electorate to the kingdom of Prussia, and the closing of the ports of the North Sea against British commerce. Count Haugwitz, however, privately assured Mr. Jackson, British Minister at Berlin, that those measures were only temporary, taken under compulsion, and opposed to the true intention of the Baron Jacobi, representing Prussia in London, gave the same explanations to Mr. Fox. Later on after the rupture of direct relations, Baron Goltz, Prussian envoy at St. Petersburgh, proposed to his English colleague, Lord Granville Levison, to embody them in a secret treaty.2 But Fox would not listen to excuses. He replied to the closing of northern ports against British commerce by a formal

¹ F. J. Jackson to Fox, March 27, 1806.—F.O. Despatches, 2 Lord G. L. Gower to Fox, April 14, 1806.—Ibid.

declaration of war. He urged the Czar to punish Prussian bad faith by annexing Prussian Poland to his own dominions. British squadrons blockaded the mouths of the Ems, Weser and Elbe, and captured 250 German merchant vessels sailing for greater security under the Prussian flag. Nor did the shame, humiliation, and loss incurred by the Treaty of Paris purchase for Prussia permanent advantage or even safety. The evident reluctance of the Prussian Government to enter into an alliance with him stung Napoleon's pride. The hostile attitude it had assumed towards him after the treaty of Potsdam, which papers subsequently presented to the British Parliament disclosed, its paltry evasions and excuses and equivocal attitude since the Treaty of Vienna, aroused his anger and He came to the resolution to pursue his own contempt. objects without regard for obligations contracted with a

power he neither feared nor trusted.1

In February, also, a proposal for the assassination or overthrow of Napoleon made by a foreigner to Fox, and promptly communicated by the latter to Talleyrand, opened a way for correspondence of a pacific tendency between the two Talleyrand sent Fox a copy of the French official gazette containing a report of the Emperor's annual address to the legislative body, in which Napoleon expressed his readiness to make peace with England on the basis of the treaty of Amiens. Fox's acknowledgment gave assurance of the desire of the British Government to treat with France on terms honourable to all parties, in concert with its ally the Emperor of Russia. The draft of this letter, when submitted to him by Fox, was read with much ill-humour by George III. "His reply," Fox wrote to Grenville on March 8, "is as unpleasant as possible." The conflict seems to have been obstinate. The King only yielded to the unanimous advice of the Cabinet, conveyed to him in a minute drawn up on March 26, when it had become a question of his acquiescence or of their resignation. The British note produced another hitch in Paris. Napoleon, Talleyrand declared, would not treat with a Congress, only with each power separately. George III., Fox replied, would on no account break faith with an ally. So the project of negotiation fell stillborn; only, however, to revive in a new shape when the Russian Emperor's pacific disposition was publicly declared soon afterwards in M. D'Oubril's mission to Vienna.

By the treaty of Presburg, signed on December 28, 1805, the Emperor Francis II. ceded Dalmatia and the mouths of the Cattaro to France. Before, however, the French troops despatched to receive possession of the forts guarding this important inlet, had arrived, the Austrian commandant gave them up to the Russian admiral in the Adriatic. Napoleon, on hearing this news, refused to withdraw his troops from the river Inn until the ceded territory was in his hands; and

¹ Thiers—Consulate and Empire.

insisted at Vienna that an Austrian army should be sent to recover it from the Russians, if necessary by force. In this dilemma, Francis II. appealed to the Emperor Alexander to enable him to fulfil his engagements to France without an open breach with Russia. The decisive defeat of Austerlitz; the ignominious desertion of the King of Prussia, although master of what was regarded at St. Petersburgh as the most formidable army in Europe; the change of ministry in England, had greatly depressed Alexander. He became impatient of the strenuous counsels of Prince Czartoriski and the other young advisers, his personal friends, who of late years had directed Russian policy, without representing Russian opinion: and who still urged him to remain steadfast in his alliance with England against the aggressions of France. But, although inclining to peace, he wished if possible to avoid giving up the mouths of the Cattaro to Napoleon, except as a part of some general arrangement which should secure to Russia other advantages in the Mediterranean. In response to the Emperor Francis's appeal, he sent M. D'Oubril to Vienna to discuss the whole question with the Austrian Government. The French Ambassador, M. de la Rochefoucault, appears to have assisted at the conferences that followed. During their progress Prince Czartoriski and his political friends resigned office at St. Petersburgh; and General Budberg, a man of little ability, who had been Alexander's governor, assumed the direction of foreign affairs. In June D'Oubril proceeded to Paris to negotiate directly with Talleyrand.

In the meantime the improved relations of the English and French Governments had enabled Fox to ask for and obtain indulgences for various English subjects detained as political prisoners at Verdun and other depots throughout France. Among the détenus thus favoured, Lord Yarmouth, eldest son of the Marquis of Hertford, and a particular friend of the Prince of Wales, received permission to reside at Paris. Lord Yarmouth had already entered on the career of debauchery and political intrigue which gave him such notoriety during the Regency and the reign of George IV. He is a prominent if not edifying figure in the literature of the Victorian age, not only in political memoirs such as those of J. W. Croker and Charles Greville, but also in two at least of its most famous novels. Although his wife, Maria Fagniani, a few years later, as Thomas Grenville relates, inherited enormous wealth under the will of the Duke of Queensberry, it would appear that at this time he was poor, and supported an extravagant style of living by extraordinary success at play. Early in June Talleyrand sent this nobleman to London on a secret mission to Fox. Yarmouth brought an offer from the French to the British Government to negotiate for peace on the basis of (1) restoration of Hanover to George III., (2) retention of Sicily by Ferdinand IV., and (3), as both Fox and Lord Grenville understood the message, uti possidetis, or, keep what you have got,

for Great Britain. In regard to this last point, however, there appears to have been misunderstanding or wilful deception. Both Talleyrand himself and General Clarke, who was specially appointed to represent France in subsequent conferences, declared, in discussion with Lord Lauderdale, afterwards associated with Yarmouth, that no such idea had ever entered Napoleon's mind. And Clarke at Talleyrand's alleged assurances on the point Yarmouth, when quoted to him by Lauderdale, as romans politiques. A proposal apparently so advantageous was promptly accepted by the British Cabinet. Yarmouth returned to Paris authorised by Fox to discuss informally Talleyrand terms of peace on the basis offered. Nothing, however, was to be concluded without the consent of Russia. The state of the Continent, the difficulties of recruiting, an urgent need of economy, and reaction against the more adventurous policy which had ended in such disaster, had hitherto led the Coalition Cabinet to confine its military efforts to the safer and more profitable aim of augmenting British power and securing British interests in the Mediterranean.² Grenville now urged Fox to obtain by treaty from the Kings of Sicily and Sardinia the right of keeping garrisons of British troops in those islands, with the view of acquiring practical possession of them before making peace with France on the basis of uti possidetis. But Yarmouth's next report from Paris was less satisfactory. At their first interview after his return, Talleyrand informed him that recent advices from Italy had convinced Napoleon that the possession of Sicily was absolutely necessary for Joseph Bonaparte's security at Naples. The French Government therefore, he declared, could not relinquish that object; and Napoleon considered that Hanover, Malta and the Cape should satisfy Great Britain.3 Fox, however, insisted that the basis originally proposed must be adhered to strictly. And although later on, at the urgent demand of the French Government, as communicated to him by Yarmouth, he sent the latter full powers as accredited representative of George III, he accompanied them with express directions that they should not be produced until that condition had been formally admitted. This was the state of the negotiation between France and England when M. D'Oubril arrived in Paris.

Fox was ill when he took office; but attacks of his malady were intermittent, and its grave character was still unknown. Early, however, in the session of 1806 the strain imposed by the lead of the House of Commons and the conduct of foreign affairs overtaxed his failing strength, and the disease which proved fatal to him in the following autumn began to develop with alarming rapidity. For some months he spoke occasionally in debate with undiminished power. But he was

<sup>Lauderdale to Fox, August, 1806.—F.O. Despatches.
Lord Grenville to Mr. Windham, April 12, p. 97.
Yarmouth to Fox, June 21, 1806.—F.O. Despatches.</sup>

unable to give the constant attendance, or to exercise the close supervision which the orderly progress of public business required. His colleagues in the House of Commons, engrossed by the work of their own departments, gave him little efficient help; and the Tory Opposition gathered courage from a state of confusion oceasionally hinted at in Lord Auckland's confidential letters to his chief. Passive at first, Opposition now leaped up in spasmodic activity; better sustained after Lord Melville's acquittal by the House of Lords had given it a temporary leader. Lord Henry Petty's Budget offered few points for adverse criticism. But Windham's Army Bill, intended to supply the admitted failure of Pitt's Additional Forces Act. substituting limited service for life service, paring down the extravagance and jobbery of the existing military system, after encountering strenuous obstruction in its initial stages from the Duke of York, was fiercely assailed both in Parliament and in the country. Notwithstanding, however, the clamour industriously raised against it as unjust and injurious to the Volunteers, and what Thomas Grenville termed the "particular impracticalities" of the War Minister, it became law after a severe struggle. A still more signal success of the Ministry was the celebrated resolution abolishing the The difficulties in its way seemed at first sight almost insuperable. A similar motion made by Wilberforce in the previous session, and supported by both Pitt and Fox, had been rejected even in the House of Commons. Powerful commercial and colonial interests, a great body of conservative and even of religious prejudice, which enlisted the King's thorough sympathies, were arrayed against it. But the government of the country was in the hands of men who not only championed the cause with heart and conviction, as Pitt had done, but who prized fidelity to principle more than place and power. A resolution in favour of abolition, moved by Lord Grenville in the Lords, and by Fox, at Wilberforce's special request, in the Commons, and thus adopted for the first time as a government measure, passed triumphantly through both Houses. Press of business caused a Bill giving the resolution effect to be deferred till the beginning of This was the last and crowning the next session. achievement of Fox's public career. One reverse, however, caused him deep mortification. The Government, acting within its rights, revoked the temporary appointment of Sir George Barlow, a permanent servant of the East India Company, as Governor-General of India, and nominated the Earl of Landerdale for that high office. The board of directors resented this step. Acting also within their rights under Pitt's dual constitution, and irritated, as Lord Grenville thought, by the favour shown in high official circles to Lord Wellesley, they rejected the nomination. Whatever the dominant motive, the blow fell with especial severity on Fox, Lauderdale being one of his dearest friends. Having thus asserted its independence, the Company accepted the

nomination of Lord Minto, President of the Board of Control, as successor to Barlow. This arrangement opened a vacancy in the administration for Thomas Grenville, who, to the great satisfaction of his own family, and with Fox's particular goodwill, was also taken into the Cabinet. But although a man of good counsel and of fair general ability, the new President of the Board of Control did not shine in the House of Commons. His accession to office gave little relief to his overworked leader.

A scandalous incident which occurred in the spring was also used by the Opposition, in a manner little to its credit, to defame the Ministry. The Prince of Wales accused his wife, whom he had married in 1795, and separated from in the following year, of having given birth to a child in 1802. The charge rested on the testimony of Sir John and Lady Douglas, who had lived on intimate terms with the Princess in the year 1802, and quarrelled with her subsequently. George III. appointed a Commission composed of four members of the Cabinet, Lords Erskine, Ellenborough, Grenville and Spencer, to investigate the case. The four lords, assisted by the Solicitor-General, Sir Samuel Romilly, held private sittings and examined witnesses during the month of June, at Camelford House. They reported that the charge of child-bearing was not proved; but that trustworthy evidence given in the course of their investigation disclosed grave misconduct on the part of the Princess with Sir Sidney Smith, and Captain Manby of the Royal Navy. The King then called on the Princess for her defence. Her answer claimed a complete acquittal. The Commission, she complained, had exceeded its functions in raking up against her trivial circumstances beyond the scope of the matter laid before it. She prayed his Majesty to put an end to proceedings against her, receive her again at Court, and publicly proclaim her innocence. Having read this reply, George III. referred it and all the other papers bearing on the case to the whole Cabinet for consideration and advice. In the meantime her Royal Highness posed in public as the innocent victim of a profligate husband. The Opposition eagerly espoused her cause. Lord Malmesbury, who had brought her to England in 1795, became her confidential adviser. Mr. Percival, one of her counsel, drew up her defence. Prominent Tory politicians, who in after years as Ministers of George IV. conducted the "delicate investigation" and subsequent proceedings against his wife in the House of Lords, now inveighed against the Grenville Cabinet as accomplices of their patron in the shameful persecution of a much-wronged woman. And while Grenville was thus assailed by partizans of the Princess, he had to defend himself against the complaints of the Prince of Wales, who winced under public obloquy and attributed the King's delay in giving judgment in his favour to slackness on the part of the Ministry in affording him the support he had expected from them. As a matter of fact, the Ministry

¹ Lord FitzWilliam to Lord Grenville, November 6, 1806; Lord Grenville to Lord FitzWilliam, November 8, 1806.

acted with entire impartiality. The whole Cabinet adopted the finding of the Commission of Lords, but excused itself from advising his Majesty in a matter which concerned the honour and the internal discipline of his family. This answer appears to have been a compromise between conflicting opinions. Windham, as well as Lord Grenville, thought the evidence of Lady Douglas and her husband entirely unworthy of credit; and in the chivalrous and independent spirit which distinguished all his public conduct he insisted on expressing this opinion more distinctly in a separate minute. The somewhat evasive reply of his Cabinet displeased the King. He again asked it to advise him in what terms and what mode he should reply to the petition of his daughter-in-law. His Ministers in a second minute, drafted by Lord Grenville, counselled him to permit her to appear at Court, but to admonish her to mend her behaviour. They also submitted for his approval a letter to that effect, also drafted by Grenville, to be handed to her by the Lord Chancellor. The King adopted the advice, and also the letter with one alteration. In order, as he explained, to avoid any appearance of harshness, he substituted the phrase "serious concern" for "disapprobation" as marking his sense of her misconduct. Here the incident closed, not to the satisfaction of the Prince of Wales.

On December 1, 1812, Lord Grenville, in reply to a request from Lord Holland to be allowed to see the papers relating to this investigation, wrote "I kept no copy either of the examinations, or of that impudent libel which Percival drew up under the shelter of the Princess's name as the answer, and which forms the substance of the famous *Book* privately printed by him, and which will, no doubt, one day or other

come to light."2

In July, M. D'Oubril, under pressure from the French Government, took the responsibility on himself of signing a separate treaty between France and Russia. Having sent a copy of this instrument to Count Stroganoff, Russian Minister in London, with an intimation that he had acted with the knowledge and consent of Lord Yarmouth, D'Oubril hurried back to St. Petersburgh to lay the original before the Czar. It stipulated that Alexander should surrender the mouths of the Cattaro, but retain Corfu. He was also to assist Napoleon in persuading Ferdinand IV. to cede Sicily to Joseph Bonaparte, in consideration of a pension for Ferdinand Islands, with the title himself, and of the Balearic Lord Yarmouth King, for the Duke of Calabria. reported at the same time to Fox that the separate treaty had been signed by D'Oubril in spite of his remonstrances. He also informed Fox that he had thought himself justified by the altered circumstances resulting from D'Oubril's treaty, and by information of changes impending in Germany which might interfere with the restoration of Hanover to George III., in disobeying his instructions by producing his full powers in

¹[In February, 1807.—The documents referred to in the text will be printed in the Appendix of the next Volume.] ² Dropmore Papers.

conference with General Clarke, without insisting on the basis of negotiation originally proposed by Talleyrand. He stated also that a French army was assembled at Bayonne for the purpose of compelling the Regent of Portugal to close the ports of that kingdom against the English. The British Government now found itself in a position of considerable embarrassment.

A crisis in Fox's illness completely disabled him from transacting business. Official communications between London and St. Petersburgh had been much interrupted of late by adverse weather. And although Count Stroganoff seemed confident that D'Oubril would be disavowed, Lord Grenville, on whom the conduct of negotiations had now virtually devolved, entertained strong doubts on the subject. "I have been too long used," he wrote in a desponding vein to Lord Buckingham, "to the total debasement of all Continental Courts to rely much on any such hope." He, however, acted with promptitude and vigour. A despatch was sent to St. Petersburgh, protesting against the breach of faith involved in D'Oubril's separate treaty, and appealing to Alexander to repudiate it. Other despatches from Downing Street conveyed a severe reprimand to Yarmouth for disobeying his instructions, and forbad him to make any further concession without the concurrence of Lord Lauderdale, who was about to join him in Paris. This announcement of the approaching arrival of a second English envoy was received with great illhumour at the French Foreign Office. Talleyrand, Yarmouth wrote, charged the British Government with wilful delay and disclaimed responsibility for the consequences. But Grenville retorted with great effect, by showing, what Yarmouth had left unsaid, that whatever delay had occurred was attributable solely to the refusal of the French Government to adhere to its own proposals. In view of the doubt that hung around the intention of the Emperor Alexander as to the disposal of Sicily, Lauderdale was authorised to discuss the question of an exchange of territory, on the condition that the indemnity offered should be entirely acceptable to the Bourbon King. In other respects he was to insist on the terms of peace originally offered through Lord Yarmouth. He had been only a few days in the French capital when information from various sources which he could trust convinced him that Talleyrand and Yarmouth, acting in corrupt concert, had been using the negotiation for the purpose of speculations on the Paris Bourse and the London Stock Exchange. His confidential letters to Lord Grenville on the subject, printed in this volume, pp. 270-8, were laid by the Prime Minister before the Cabinet. Lord Yarmouth was immediately recalled on the pretext of satisfying the objection of the French Government to the employment of a second British negotiator at Paris. It speaks well for the patriotic reticence of the Cabinet that this disgraceful episode in the history of British diplomacy should have remained so long

Yarmouth to Fox, July 19, 20, 21, 27, &c., 1806. F.O. Despatches. Court and Cabinets of George III, July 26, 1806.

undivulged. Talleyrand, of course, to borrow his own descrip-

tion of the French père de famille, was capable de tout.

About the same time Lord St. Vincent was despatched to Lisbon in command of a powerful naval armament, which carried General Simcoe as military adviser, and Lord Rosslyn as British Ambassador. They were to offer protection to the Prince Regent against a French invasion; and, if things came to the worst, to obtain, if necessary by force, the surrender of the Portuguese fleet, so as to prevent its falling into the hands of the French. The expedition was premature. More authentic intelligence satisfied the Admiral and his colleagues and the Cabinct in London that Lord Yarmouth's report of Napoleon's preparations at Bayonne was greatly exaggerated. As no immediate danger threatened the independence of

Portugal, the expedition returned to England.

While peace or war between England and France thus hung in suspense, two events—one of deep significance, the other fertile only in illusions—exercised an important influence on the issue of the negotiations. Since the treaty of Presburg. pacified the Continent, Napoleon had bent his energies to the building up of his new empire much on the lines of the old empire he had laid in ruins—raising around it dependent kingdoms and principalities; strengthening, unifying and embellishing it by the institutions, the great public works, the ornamental structures, which keep his memory alive. Holland accepted his brother Louis as its king. Marshal Massena, notwithstanding General Stuart's brilliant but barren victory at Maida, gradually brought all Naples under the sway of Joseph Bonaparte. From his acquisitions in Germany and Italy the conqueror carved out grand duchies and principalities to be held as imperial fiefs by other members of his family, and by the statesmen and warriors who supported his throne. The marvellous achievements of the Consulate in the fields of peace were now completed or developed. Improvements in the systems of administration, finance and legislation then established; the University of Paris crowning a national edifice of popular education; the harbours of Antwerp and Cherbourg; the great public roads spanning the Alps or bordering the Mediterranean and the Rhine; vast canals connecting the chief waterways and ports of the empire; the churches, palaces, bridges, fountains and splendid monuments which transformed Paris into the most beautiful capital of Europe, bear testimony to the prodigious and fruitful activity of this the most glorious and prosperous year of his reign. It was the last year too of his noblest work. In July, when the treaty between France and Russia signed by M. D'Oubril scemed to have secured a long period of tranquillity on the Continent, Napoleon announced as an accomplished fact the Confederation of the Rhine. This was a league of the Kings of Bavaria and Wurtemburg, the Arch-Chancellor, the Elector of Baden, and several minor princes of South Germany, who declared their independence of the Emperor, seceded from the Diet

of Ratisbon, and formed another Diet of two colleges, under the protection of Napoleon. The Arch-Chancellor became president of this body with the title of Prince Primate. receiving as an official appanage the free city of Frankfort, which thus became the capital of the Confederation. remaining free cities of southern Germany, many independent princes, and the immediate nobility which owed allegiance only to the Emperor, were disfranchised to feed the rapacity and thus purchase the adhesion of the Kings of Bavaria and Wurtemberg. The new league gave Napoleon command of 63,000 German auxiliaries. No intimation of a change which concerned him so nearly, was vouchsafed to the King of Prussia, till it had been accomplished by Talleyrand in a series of secret negotiations. He was then informed that the French Government would not object to his forming a similar confederation in the north of Germany. This bold move towards supremacy over all western Europe swept away the last vestiges of the Holy Roman Empire. Francis II formally renounced the title of Roman Emperor, which had been borne by eighteen princes of the House of Hapsburg; released the vassals of that dignity from their ties of allegiance; and incorporated his German dominions with the empire of Austria. The Germanic Diet which had held its sittings at Ratisbon for one hundred and fifty years, vanished into oblivion. This revolution, however, gave a terrible shock to conservative opinion throughout Europe. The blow was felt most severely in Germany, where the Emperors, with few exceptions, had for ages represented and defended established order. Nor did the secrecy and contempt for established rights, with which the change had been wrought, tend to mitigate the apprehensions it aroused. Napoleon's disregard of an alliance which had been purchased at the price of national dishonour filled the Court and people of Prussia with indignation and distrust. The Emperor of Russia had looked on himself as guardian of the settlement forced on the Germanic Diet in 1803, by the united pressure of France and Russia, and now suddenly abrogated without his concurrence. This public slight wounded his self-esteem. And the pacific leanings displayed in D'Oubril's mission to Paris gave place in his mind to a renewed desire to set bounds to Napoleon's insatiable ambition.

The second event which told against peace and caused irrational excitement in England was the capture of Buenos Ayres by Admiral Sir Home Popham in June, 1806. Popham and General Sir David Baird had been despatched by Pitt in 1805 in command of an expedition against the Dutch colony at the Cape of Good Hope. The Dutch governor of Cape Town surrendered the place to them in January, 1806. Then Popham, having persuaded Baird to place at his disposal a body of troops under General Beresford, carried them away of his own accord to Rio de la Plata, and captured Buenos

Avres by a coup de main. He announced this feat in a manifesto addressed to the trading corporations of Great Britain, which depicted in glowing colours the boundless prospects of expansion and the golden harvests of profit thus opened to British trade. When this appeal national cupidity reached England, apparently late in August, a fever of speculation seized the whole mercantile community. The concluding of peace which must probably restore to Spain such a valuable conquest, or at least diminish the advantages promised by Popham, became every day more unpopular. Lord Grenville at first seems to have distrusted the admiral's well-known proneness to bombast, but he soon yielded himself up to the illusions it created. It would appear from his correspondence that he persuaded himself, or allowed himself to be persuaded, that the British Government would find little difficulty in conquering the whole Spanish Indies in the course of a single year. Fox, whose sound sense might have proved invaluable in tempering this spirit of adventure, was on his death-bed. Government recalled Popham, and sent him before a court-martial for quitting his station at the Cape without orders. But it sent a reinforcement of troops under General Auchmuty to pluck the fruits of Popham's disobedience, and a whole fleet of English merchantmen crossed two oceans to gather them in. This ambitious scheme was little better than a chimera, a dream of avarice. It took no account of the wishes of the Indo-Spanish population, the people chiefly concerned. It counted on the continued possession of Buenos Ayres, which remained only for six or seven weeks in British occupation. Before news of its capture reached England the Spaniards had risen in arms, recovered the city, and made prisoners of the British garrison. General Auchmuty attacked and took Monte Video, but this second conquest proved as barren and untenable as the first. Meantime the British Government and nation clung to their vain expectations with a credulity that made peace with France on any terms which Napoleon would accept, impossible. It seems to have required General Whitclocke's disastrous failure at Buenos Ayres in the following year to teach public opinion in England that, however gladly the Spanish colonists might have welcomed help to establish their independence, they had no desire to exchange a Spanish for an English yoke.

It seems strange also, viewing the matter in the light of subsequent experience, that no doubt appears to have crossed Lord Grenville's mind in regard to any injurious effect his ambitious scheme, which, as we shall see, included Mexico, might have on the relations, already strained, of Great Britain and the United States of North America. The American Government aimed openly at extending its boundaries by acquisitions from European powers. It had lately purchased Louisiana from France. It was now worrying the Spanish

¹ Lord Grenville to Lord Howick, September 29, 1806.

Government to conclude a similar bargain for the cession of the Floridas. Messrs. Munro and Pinckney had just arrived in London on a mission from President Jefferson to claim redress from the British Government. The grievances they alleged were (1) vexatious interference with American trade to the West Indies by British cruisers, which not only stopped ships, but (2) carried off American seamen on the pretext that they were British subjects. Lord Grenville appointed Lords Holland and Auckland as British commissioners to discuss these complaints with the American envoys. After numerous and prolonged conferences a settlement was arrived at in December. But this treaty was rejected at Washington, as not affording

the satisfaction required.

The King of Prussia, acting on the suggestion flung out to him from Paris, was labouring with a want of success, which he attributed in great measure to French intrigue, to form a northern league as a counterpoise to the Confederation of the Rhine, when despatches from Marquis Lucchesini, his minister in the French capital, informed him that Napoleon had offered Hanover George III as a condition of peace. One of these despatches having been intercepted by Fouché's secret police, Talleyrand instructed M. La Foret, French ambassador at Berlin, to declare the intelligence it conveyed a false report, and to demand Lucchesini's recall. But during the panic which seized the Prussian Cabinet on learning Napoleon's breath of faith, the news leaked out at Berlin, and aroused a storm of national anger which swept the Government helplessly along into war. Frederick William, by the advice of his Council, took immediate measures to place the Prussian army on a war footing. To gain time for preparation, he recalled Lucchesini, one of his ablest servants, to Berlin, and sent General Knobelsdorf, a dull man but known to be acceptable to Napolcon, to represent him at the Tuileries. The general had instructions, while accepting the explanations and friendly professions of the French Foreign Office, to demand the immediate withdrawal of French troops from Germany as a concession absolutely necessary to allay the public ferment which the Prussian Government could no longer control. As the evacuation of Germany was an article of the treaty he had just concluded with Russia, Napoleon, who had no immediate purpose of provoking war with Prussia, would no doubt have made some concession to German susceptibilities, if intelligence from St. Petersburgh had not materially altered the political situation.

Lord Lauderdale in his conferences with General Clarke, representing France, had insisted on the terms of peace originally proposed to Mr. Fox through Lord Yarmouth, while expressing willingness to entertain the question of an exchange of territory for Sicily. Clarke answered with equal decision that Napoleon would not go beyond Hanover, Malta

and the Cape of Good Hope in the path of concession to England. Both parties awaited with anxiety the decision of the Russian Emperor on the subject of D'Oubril's treaty. In the meantime they discussed various proposals in regard to the Sicilian question, brought forward by the French, but rejected as inadmissible by the English Government. Early in September Alexander's decision became known. He disavowed D'Oubril, who had disobeyed the instructions given to him. He insisted not only that Sicily should be left to the Bourbons, but that the French should relinquish Dalmatia, and obtain the Balearic Islands from Spain as compensation for the King of Sardinia. And he authorised Lord Lauderdale to represent Russia as well as Great Britain at Paris. This intelligence was highly gratifying to Lord Grenville, who immediately instructed Lauderdale to present the Russian demands conjointly with those of England as an ultimatum to the French Government; and, in case of refusal, to ask for passports and return home. He even suggested confidentially to Lauderdale that if the British Government was asked to restore Buenos Ayres, and thus renounce the immense prospects of advantages implied by its possession, France might reasonably be required in return to restore Naples to Ferdinand IV.1 On the other hand, Napoleon, finding himself unable to make peace on conditions he was willing to accept, and seeing in the turn of affairs the prospect of a new European coalition in the following spring, changed his policy with characteristic promptitude. He resolved to crush Prussia he had crushed Austria, while exposed alone to the full force of his power; and disable the Czar from interfering further in the affairs of western Europe. In reply to the Prussian demand for the evacuation of Germany, General Knobelsdorf was curtly informed that the French army should be withdrawn when Prussia disarmed. And while Prince Talleyrand cloaked his master's designs by spinning out negotiations with Lord Lauderdale, Napoleon pursued them with the same secrecy, expedition and thoroughness which had marked the opening of his campaign against Austria in 1805. The frenzied excitement which reigned in Prussia favoured his plans. It completely blinded all classes to the facts of the situation. The whole Prussian army, even if reinforced by the Saxons and Hessians whose aid was counted on, unwisely in the latter case, was considerably inferior even in numbers to the veteran French troops assembled in Franconia within a few marches of the Saxon Its commander-in-chief, the Duke of Brunswick, inspired no confidence. Furious discord distracted the Council of War. The Prussian treasury could not support alone the cost of a prolonged struggle; and the Government was at war with its old and only possible paymaster, the Government of Great Britain. All the Russian auxiliaries had returned

¹ Lord Grenville to Lord Lauderdale, October 1,-F.O. Despatches,

home. The Emperor of Austria had not forgiven the cowardly desertion which left him at Napoleon's mercy at the end of the previous year. Ordinary prudence, self-preservation even, required of the Prussian Government to accept the situation it had created for itself; to dissemble and submit till the national forces had been fully organised, faults of policy had been repaired, and old alliances restored to repel a danger common to all independent states. But the military spirit, fed on memories of Rosbach, chafed to fury by echoes of Gallic vaunting in Franconia, completely dominated Court and people. The King, who hated war, and knew himself to be incapable of directing military operations, was no longer master of his own conduct. Count Haugwitz and his other advisers, who remained in office at his earnest entreaty, and, as they averred, to cheat Napoleon into the belief that pacific counsels still governed Prussia, secretly fanned the flame of war they could not subdue; deceiving themselves with vain hopes of foreign support. This support had only been sought after Talleyrand's reply to General Knobelsdorf dispelled the expectation of concessions from France to which they had hitherto clung. The Czar, indeed, in answer to an appeal from Frederick William, placed all the resources of the Russian empire at the service of his ally. But this aid was still distant. In reply to assurances from Berlin through M. Balen, Prussian agent in London, that Hanover should be restored to George III. the British Government raised the blockade of north German ports and rivers, and sent Lord Morpeth on a mission to the Prussian Court. But it refused to entertain the question of financial help until a treaty yielding up the electorate had been signed by Ferderick William and guaranteed by Alexander. The Austrian Cabinet would not even listen to overtures for an alliance against France from the Prussian minister at Vienna.

A vivid and authentic picture by a master of his art, of the confusion that reigned in Prussian councils, military and political, during the fortnight preceding the battle of Jena may be found in the Appendix of this volume. It is the journal of M. de Gentz, the most brilliant, powerful, and well-informed political writer of this time. In the early days of the French Revolution Gentz had been a Prussian official, using his pen with great effect under the protection of Count Schulemberg to stem the diffusion of French principles in Germany. When Count Haugwitz and the neutral policy he represented acquired ascendency at the Court of Berlin, Gentz migrated to Vienna and pursued his work there under the patronage of the Emperor Francis II. The main object of his numerous publications was to create a national spirit in Germany which should unite Austria and Prussia in close alliance with each other and with Great Britain; it being his firm belief that by this union only could French aggression be repelled. Lord Carysford,

when British ambassador to Berlin, in furtherance of this patriotic aim, and more particularly in the hope of reconciling, by Gentz's assistance, German opinion to the privations inflicted on the Continent by the maritime policy of Great Britain, had, as has been already related, prevailed on Lord Grenville to retain, not ungrudgingly, Gentz's literary services by the grant of a small English pension of 2001. a year. It is to Gentz's writings that the anti-Gallican feeling which compelled Frederick William III to sign the Convention of Potsdam in November, 1805, must in large measure be attributed. And it was for the crime of selling them in June, 1806, that Napoleon caused Palm, the Nuremberg bookseller, to be shot. Towards the end of September, 1806 Gentz, then at Dresden, received a pressing invitation from Count Haugwitz to visit the headquarters of the Prussian army at Erfurth. He had hitherto been incredulous in regard to the danger of war between France and Prussia. That the astute and experienced statesman who had so long guided Prussian policy should have shrunk from a conflict with Napoleon in the previous December when all the circumstances were so much more favourable to Prussia, only to plunge recklessly nine months later, under every disadvantage, into a singlehanded struggle with the same aggrandised antagonist, was a problem which completely puzzled him. And it was as much from the curiosity of a political student intent on solving this mystery, as from a patriotic desire to serve the German cause that he obeyed Haugwitz's summons. Of the chief personages assembled at Erfurth, Haugwitz, Lucchesini, Lombard the King's confidential secretary and for many vears past the real inspirer of Prussian policy, among civilians; the Duke of Brunswick, Generals Kalkreuth and Ruffel among the leaders of the army, courted his advice, and treated him with flattering confidence. And although he did not see the King, Queen Louisa, of whom he speaks in the language of enthusiastic admiration, opened her mind to him without reserve in the course of a long interview. Haugwitz had two main objects in desiring his presence to make use of his pen against Napoleon, and secondly, of his influence at the Austrian Court to reconcile the two great German Powers. He placed his pen freely at the service of the Prussian Government; but his knowledge of the state of affairs and of public feeling at Vienna led him to decline the second task. During his stay at the Prussian headquarters he made full use of the exceptional opportunities offered him of collecting information. He compared and corrected with insight and candour different versions of the events leading up to the present emergency; supplying the reticence of one statesman or warrior by information skilfully extracted from another, until the whole situation, with its manifold blunders, furious discords, and pitiful illusions, lay bare before his eyes; and filled his mind with painful forebodings, only too prophetic of the tragedy

that followed. This journal of M. de Gentz, in which he jotted down his experiences day by day while eonsciously oppressed by the deepening gloom of a catastrophe which was about to overwhelm in common ruin the Prussian monarchy and his own hopes of German freedom, is a historical document of

singular interest and value.

Fox died on September 13. "Regretted by all," Lord Malmesbury records; "the last period of his life brought him great and just honour." The unbridled passions which had dominated his glorious faculties, obseured, his natural virtues, and more than once wrecked his political fortunes in earlier life, evaporated as years went on, leaving a too short period of mellow strength; just enough to show the world how supremely great his career might have been had his early training been less unfortunate. For the Ministry it was an irreparable loss. Whether as leader of the House of Commons, Secretary for Foreign Affairs, or mediator in a Cabinet containing such jarring elements, there was no one left who could supply it. The reader notes, not without astonishment, how completely, in the course of a few months of intimate association, his commanding talents, sound sense, and genial nature established an ascendency over such old political foes, so opposite to himself too in character and habit of life, as Lords Grenville and Sidmouth. On the former of these statesmen, union with him, had, for the time at least, a most beneficial effect; broadening his mind, softening its asperities, making it more tolerant. Even the rooted dislike of the King seems to have yielded to the charm Fox exerted in personal intercourse. Lord Grenville's letter announcing Fox's death to Lord Lauderdale is a tribute of genuine sorrow and affectionate admiration. The feeling evoked by the event in old friends of Fox who had adhered to him with unswerving devotion in good and evil fortune, is expressed in Lauderdale's reply. Lord Sidmouth scems to have been deeply affected.2 Whatever slight chance of peace still remained vanished with the Whig leader. firmness of purpose and a wide knowledge of Continental affairs, he alone united freedom from international prejudice, preference for friendly relations with France, and the disposition to exclude invective from diplomatic discussion especially necessary in treating with Napoleon. Within a fortnight after his death the French ruler virtually brought negotiation to an end by suddenly leaving Paris for Germany, taking with him Prince Talleyrand and General Clarke. It was not, however, till October 8 that Lord Lauderdale succeeded in obtaining passports and returned to England.

Fox's old enemy Lord Thurlow, whose force and readiness in debate and awe-inspiring aspect made him such a redoubtable antagonist in Parliament, died on September 12. Even in the zenith of Thurlow's power as dictator of the House of Lords

Diary and Correspondence.Pellew—Life of Sidmouth,

and privileged adviser of George III, Fox used to insist that the grim Chancellor was an imposter. "No man," he declared, "could possibly be so wise as Thurlow looked." Common enmity to Pitt, and the good offices of the Prince of Wales brought those old foes into more amicable relations during the last years of their lives. Thurlow's death was a piece of good news for Lord Auckland, which Lord Grenville hastened to communicate. It meant the falling in of a rich sinecure, of which the reversion had been

given by Pitt to Auckland's eldest son.

Not the least unfortunate result for the Ministry of Fox's death was a more decided exercise of Lord Buckingham's influence over Lord Grenville, which the deceased statesman's authority had held in salutary check. The Marquis had never been satisfied with what he considered the inedaquate representation in the coalition Government of the Grenville element, representing war with France and existing order at home, in passive resistance to the Whig programme of peace, and progressive as distinguished from radical reform. He now became urgent with the Prime Minister to make the conservative interest in the Administration predominant, by asserting the personal pre-eminence among English statesmen to which his brother succeeded when Pitt and Fox disappeared from the political stage. As early as July, 1806 Lord Grenville, in order to mitigate a calamity which even then appeared inevitable, had sought by negotiation to draw an accession of strength from the Opposition in the House of Commons, where the blow would be most felt. Lord Howick's claims to succeed Fox as leader in that House were not disputed; but the age and feeble health of Earl Grey made Howick's removal to the House of Lords an immediate danger; and no one else in the ministerial ranks was considered eligible for the post. This may sound strange when we recollect that two of the most prominent politicians and most splendid orators of that great age of political genius, Sheridan and Windham, sat on the Government bench; and that in the ranks behind them, were Tierney, Whitbread, Francis and others who had won renown in debate. But Sheridan owned allegiance only to Fox, and that in an independent fashion of his own. His relations with the Grenvilles were those of mutual aversion and distrust. Windham, whose noble and chivalrous nature and shining intellectual gifts made him one of the brightest ornaments of English public life, was the victim of a morbid scrupulosity1; and occasionally indulged a Quixotic humour which unfitted him for the practical work of party leader. Whitbread held radical opinions which made Lord Buckingham shudder, and were too advanced for the most liberal Whig. Tierney had not sufficient personal weight to atone for a want of political connexion. Lord Henry Petty, although a debater of considerable promise, was too inexperienced for the office of leader, and too modest to accept it. In these circumstances

^{1 [}His memoirs bear painful testimony to this defect.]

Lord Grenville had authorised Marquis Wellesley to make an overture to Mr. Canning, whose political views were in general harmony with their own. The inducements Wellesley held out for co-operation would seem to have been a seat in the Cabinet for Canning, and some high legal appointment for Mr. Perceval. Canning appears to have been not unwilling to accept; but it is doubtful whether in any circumstances the bait offered would have tempted Perceval, whose ambition had now taken a loftier flight. By this time, however, the principal members of the late Ministry had come to a working agreement among themselves, under the nominal leadership of the Duke of Portland. Their claims to office could only be satisfied by reconstruction and change on a much larger scale than was compatible with Lord Grenville's engagements to his Whig colleagues. A letter from him to Lord Wellesley, and a statement of Mr. Canning to Lord Lowther, printed on pages 387-391, throw light on this abortive negotiation, which lingered on until the death of Fox. Lord Fitz-William now resigned as President of the Council, but consented to remain in the Cabinet without office. It only remained for Lord Grenville to fill the gaps in his Administration by selections from the Ministerial ranks. Lord Howick, as chief of the Whigs, the strongest section of the Ministerial forces, succeeded Fox at the Foreign Office, and as leader of the House of Commons. But Lord Buckingham insisted that Thomas Grenville, not Windham, should lead the Grenville wing of the party in that House as Secretary for the Home Department, and next in official standing to Lord Howick. arrangement had the public advantage of allowing Lord Spencer, now Home Secretary, to return to the Admiralty, which he had formerly ruled with extraordinary efficiency. But as by the Civil List Act only two Secretaries of State could sit in the House of Commons, it would also compel Windham, the Secretary for War, to take a peerage or give up his office. Windham had carried through Parliament the most important measure of the session for the reorganisation of the military forces of the country. As his reputation as an administrator was in a measure bound up with its success, he naturally desired to bring it himself into operation. He had sat in Pitt's first Cabinet from the time of the Whig secession from Fox in 1794 to 1801, in particular connexion with Lord Grenville; had adhered to Grenville in opposition to Addington and Pitt as a personal as well as a political friend; and whether in office or in opposition was "a bright particular star" in a galaxy of Parliamentary talent which shines through the ages with a lustre all its own. Grenville knew well that all Windham's aims and interests and happiness in public life were centred in the House of Commons. But Lord Buckingham had taken a strong dislike to the War Secretary, and wished to expel him from the Ministry, or, if he remained in office, from the House of Commons. 1 Two days before Fox's death Lord Grenville wrote to Windham on the subject of the difficulties that must attend a new arrangement of offices. He suggested that Windham might help him to overcome them by accepting a peerage, but added: "it is a question on which the slightest intimation of your wishes either way must outweigh in my mind all other considerations. The object of this letter is only that of bringing the subject under your own consideration, that you may yourself decide upon it." Windham replied at once that public and private motives forbad him to entertain the proposal. This should have settled the question as it regarded him. But a few days afterwards, in a family council, Lord Grenville seems to have abandoned Windham to Lord Buckingham's private spite and ambition. He drew up a statement declaring his inability to form a new Government unless the War Secretary made way for Thomas Grenville by moving up to the House of Lords; and he asked his principal colleagues to join with him in persuading Windham to take this step as a sacrifice to the common interests. His colleagues, under stress of what they were assured was "indispensable necessity," acceded to this request; but Lord Howick, much to his credit, and the more so as Windham belonged to the Grenville not the Whig section of the Ministry, wrote: "I feel we are not acting kindly to him, and if he should reject this proposal, I cannot concur in pressing it to his exclusion from office." Windham again refused, questioning the necessity or even advantage of the change proposed, and expressing his determination to resign office rather than consent. Then Lord Grenville, somewhat ashamed probably of the line he had taken, sent a common friend, William Elliot, Chief Secretary for Ireland, to explain confidentially to the War Minister circumstances of the situation which could not be set down on paper. Windham adhered to his resolution, but wrote in most friendly and even affectionate terms to express his regret. Lord Howick and Lord Spencer proposed new arrangements in a self-denying spirit, with the view of promoting reconstruction, but they were not needed. When Lord Buckingham saw that he could not earry his point without breaking up the Government, the "indispensable necessity" vanished of itself. Thomas Grenville accepted the office of First Lord of the Admiralty without any worse consequences, apparently, than those which might result from Lord Buckingham's exercise of naval patronage. Lord Sidmouth mounted up from the post of Lord Privy Seal to that of Lord President of the Council. Lord Holland entered the Cabinet as Lord Privy Seal. Mr. Tierney succeeded T. Grenville at the Board of Control, and Lord Sidmouth's brother-in-law, Mr. Bragge-Bathurst, became Master of the Mint. It cannot be said that in the course of this political shuffle Lord Grenville acted a dignified or a generous part. He was, no doubt, coerced into his harsh, 1 Marquis of Buckingham to Lord Grenville, July 23 and September 11, 1806.

dealing with Windham by a threat of Lord Buckingham to withdraw his support from the Ministry unless his scheme of reconstruction were adopted. Their correspondence shows that at a later period of Lord Grenville's career, his brother used this threat with decisive effect in nearly analogous circumstances. We may safely infer that it was not personal ambition made Lord Grenville play what must be considered an unworthy part on this occasion, but habitual submission to family influence. There is no reason to doubt his repeated assertions that his own inclinations led him to prefer the lettered ease of Dropmore to political turmoil in high office; and that he would abandon office unless sustained in it by

the support of his brothers.

The Government being again in working order, Lord Grenville suddenly dissolved Parliament at the end of October, having removed some objection to this proceeding raised by the King in consequence of a misunderstanding. A great part of the correspondence for the last months of the year 1806 is devoted to the business of the elections. The task of adjusting claims to the same seat put forward by candidates belonging to the three parties composing the administration, and alike seeking official support; and especially the conflicting pretensions of jobbing peers in Ireland which Dublin Castle cautiously referred to Downing Street, appear to have occupied the Prime Minister's attention much more than the overthrow of the Prussian

monarchy.

Early in October Count de Jacobi had arrived in London, bringing a letter from the King of Prussia to George III. He assured Lord Howick that the Prussian Government would restore Hanover at the conclusion of a general peace, and look to some other arrangement, such the annexation of the new kingdom of Holland, compensation for the loss; and he proposed to renew the negotiation for an alliance against France which had been broken off at the beginning of the year. But the British Government refused to be content with assurances, or to discuss an application for aid until the articles of agreement with which Lord Morpeth had been despatched to Germany were actually signed. Morpeth appears to have reached the Prussian headquarters at Weimar, where the King, Queen, Court and Cabinet of Prussia were now assembled, on the night of October 12. He immediately requested an audience of Count Haugwitz, who promised to see him on the following day.1 The interview never took place.

The Duke of Brunswick, to whom the King of Prussia had given the chief command of his troops, was a man of undoubted ability, well versed in military science. But his constitutional caution and indecision, which served the cause of the French Revolution so effectively at Valmy, had lost him the confidence of the Prussian army. Had he been allowed

¹ Morpeth to Howick, October 16, 1806.—F.O. Despatches.

to follow his own judgment, he would have taken up a strong defensive position at Magdeburg on the Elbe to await there reinforcements coming from Russia. no doubt would have been the wisest course. It was what Napoleon feared, and used every artifice to prevent; his object being to bring the enemy to a decisive battle and cut him off from the Elbe, as he had cut off the Austriańs under Mack from the Inn. It had also a strenuous advocate in General Dumouriez, the Duke's able antagonist at Valmy, and lately military adviser of the British Government. The best way of fighting Napoleon, Dumouriez declared, was to oppose to him time, distance, and climate. But the Prussian army, which owed its most glorious traditions to the untiring energy and bold tactics of Frederick the Great, scouted the idea of retreat. It found a vigorous exponent of its rashness in Prince Hohenloe, second in command to the Duke of Brunswick, a soldier of approved merit, who had been deprived of a petty sovereignty in South Germany by Napoleon in forming the Confederation of the Rhine. Under this influence the Prussian Council of War decided to fall on the Grand Army before its six corps, each commanded by a marshal of France, and scattered, as it was thought, over Franconia and the Upper Palatinate, had time to concentrate. The day appointed for this forward movement appears to have been October 10, when the time fixed by a Prussian proclamation for the French to quit Germany should have expired. Hardly however was this resolution taken, when it was discovered that Napoleon had already been for a week at Wurtzburg, conferring with the King of Wirtemberg and Archduke Ferdinand of Austria, and completing his arrangements for the campaign. After another fierce conflict in the Prussian Council of War, the middle course was adopted of awaiting the French attack in a position on the river Saale, screened in front by the Thuringian Forest, and having its headquarters at Erfurth.

Napoleon veiled his designs by such skilful tactics that not one of the Prussian generals, in an unceasing conflict of opinion, succeeded in penetrating them. Instead of advancing, according to universal expectation, along the great main road running to the left of the Thuringian Forest, the French moved rapidly forward along a line to the right of the forest which the Germans had failed to take into calculation; routed a detached body of troops at Saalfeld under Prince Louis of Prussia, who was killed in the action; burned the magazines of the Prussian army on the Saale, and threatened to cut it off from the Elbe. The Prussian army to avoid being turned on the left, retired in great confusion to Weimar. Here it was resolved in a Council of War to continue the retreat towards the Elbe, along the left bank of the Saale, which, being crowned by a succession of wooded heights, afforded strong positions for defence. On the morning of October 13

the Duke of Brunswick led the way with the main body of about 90,000 men, accompanied by the King and Marshal Möllendorf. He left Prince Hohenloe with about 50,000 Prussians and Saxons to guard the bridge across the Saale at Jena, while he marched on to take possession of another bridge further down the river at Naumberg, and thus secure, as he hoped, the Prussian line of retreat. General Rüffel, with a Prussian corps of 20,000 men, remained at Weimar to await the return of the Duke of Weimar with another body of Prussians still scattered in the Thuringian Forest. The French, pursuing more rapidly along the right and lower bank of the Saale, seized the bridges. Napoleon crossed the river at Jena on the night of the 13th, followed next morning by the bulk of his army; having ordered Marshals Davout and Bernadotte to cross at Naumberg and support him with the two corps under their command. The French under the Emperor ascended a series of steep ravines, dragging along with them guns and ammunition, and, being favoured by night and a dense fog, established themselves unknown to the enemy on a wooded hill, since known as Napoleonsberg. On the morning of the 14th, as the fog began to clear off, Napoleon saw before him Prince Hohenloe's troops, which he took to be the whole Prussian army, stretching away towards Weimar. Only a part of his own army had yet joined him, but Marshal Ney, not to be restrained, began the attack. Hohenloe, though completely surprised, called General Ruchel to his aid, and held his ground for a time with obstinate valour; but after a prolonged and desperate conflict the French, increasing every hour in strength, dislodged the Germans from all their positions, and drove them in wild rout towards Weimar. In the meantime Marshal Davout crossed the Saale at Naumberg, took possession of the defile of Kosan leading up to the opposite heights, and summoned Marshal Bernadotte to join him. Such, however, was the rivalry between French marshals that they rarely acted cordially together, even under the eye of Napoleon. Bernadotte, instead of joining Davout, marched away to another passage of the river, and took no part in the fighting. The consequence was that Davout, on emerging from the defile and gaining foothold on the upper ground, found himself with 26,000 men exposed to the onset of the main Prussian army advancing from Auerstadt. But the three divisions composing his corps were the flower of the Grand They held their ground with great loss, but invincible tenacity, for six hours against repeated assaults, in the eourse of which the Duke of Brunswick and Marshal Mollendorf were mortally wounded, and the King, who exposed his person to the hottest fire, had a horse shot under him. At length the King, discouraged by the loss of his chief generals, retired from the field in good order, with the intention of

renewing the attack next day when joined by Prince Hohenloe and General Rüchel. His troops in their retreat towards Weimar came into collision with the beaten army of Hohenloe flying in utter confusion, with 20,000 French cavalry under Prince Murat flashing and thundering in their rear. The roads to Weimar were choked with fugitives and baggage wagons. Panic spread to the ranks of the main army. Whole divisions exhausted by fatigue and hunger, broke and fled, and finally disbanded. The King escaped with a small band of followers. The wounded generals were borne away in safety; and Prince Hohenloe also extricated himself from the rout. But prisoners in thousands, with all the abandoned guns and wagons, fell into the hands of the victors. On October 15 the Prussian army

no longer existed.

Lord Morpeth left Weimar on the morning of the 14th without having seen the King or Count Haugwitz, and repaired to Brunswick. Hearing there that, in the opinion of Marshal Kalkreuth, who had commanded the Prussian reserve at Auerstadt and saved it from the general wreck, no further resistance was possible, and that the King had asked for an armistice to treat for peace, he retired to Hamburg. A little later, on the approach of the victorious French, he took ship at Cuxhaven for England, without any further attempt to discharge his mission, or waiting for fresh instructions. In truth, the amazing events which followed each other in breathless succession might well have dazed a stronger brain. Terror and bewilderment were in the air. On October 13, the day before the battles of Jena and Auerstadt, Napoleon sent M. de la Rochefoucault with a letter to the King of Prussia, which expressed a wish to prevent the effusion of blood by coming to some accommodation. Such was the confusion that reigned at Prussian headquarters that the King did not read this letter till the 15th, when the battles had been fought and lost. He then despatched M. Lucchesini to ask for an armistice. Napoleon refused the request. He had already sent his marshals in hot pursuit of the flying Prussians, and hastened in person to Potsdam, sending forward Marshal Davout to occupy Berlin. Prince Hohenloc, now Prussian commander-in-chief, succeeded in collecting about 50,000 fugitives at the rendezvous of Magdeburg, in a miserable state of disorder and want. Fearing to exhaust the supply of provisions in the fortress, he set out with about half his men along the coast-line for Stettin, but was overtaken by Murat and Lannes, and compelled to lay down his arms. General Blucher with the remaining half turned northwards, and forced his way into the free city of Lubeck, in the hope of finding ships to transport his followers to East Prussia. But the French, pressing close on his heels, took Lubeck by storm, drove him out into the plain, and compelled him to surrender. An epidemic of discouragement invaded, mastered and betrayed all the Prussian strongholds. Fortresses with large

¹ Stuart to Howick, November 11.-F.O. Despatches.

garrisons, and supplied for long sieges, opened their gates to the enemy one after another with hardly a show of resistance. General Lasalle with a body of cavalry galloped up to the gates of Stettin, defended by 6,000 men and a numerous artillery, and by mere bravado compelled the governor to capitulate—a feat of audacity said to be unexampled in the annals of war. Finally the governor of Magdeburg, one of the most strongly fortified cities in Europe, defended by a garrison of 22,000 troops, yielded to the clamour of the terrorstricken inhabitants, and gave the place up to Marshal Ney on November 8. Within one month from the opening of the campaign Napoleon had made himself absolute master of all Prussia and its dependencies from the Rhine and the Ems to the Oder. Only East Prussia, Silesia, and about 25,000 troops remained to Frederick William III. The French Emperor spared Saxony, the old enemy of Prussia, and the minor Saxon potentates. The Elector became a king, and with all of his House joined the Confederation of the Rhine. But Marshal Mortier took possession of the territory of the Elector of Hesse, the old trafficking stipendiary of the British Government who had deserted Prussia in her hour of need. and disbanded the Hessian army. What wonder if Napoleon became intoxicated with the fumes of power and glory! The past thirteen months were crowded with his extraordinary achievements. Probably no ruler of men known history had, within an equal period of time, accomplished such marvels of the material order in the fields of war and peace. Visions of universal dominion dazzled his imagination. It seemed to him not only that he could subdue all Europe as easily as he had subdued Germany; but also, as he phrased it, "conquer the sea by the land." In order to liberate trade from the tyrannical naval supremacy of Great Britain, he would bring all the free kingdoms of Europe into vassalage to himself. In this spirit he issued on November 21, 1806, the Berlin Decrees; and answered a second request brought to him by Marquis Lucchessini and General Zastrow from the King of Prussia, for an armistice to treat for peace. The decrees declared the British Isles to be in a state of blockade; closed all the ports of Europe from the Adriatic to the Oder against British trade; ordered all British goods to be confiscated. and all British subjects to be arrested and held as prisoners throughout France, Italy, Holland, and northern Germany. Napoleon's answer to the Prussian envoys announced his intention to keep all his German conquests until Great Britain had restored the colonies she had captured. He would, however, consent to an armistice on condition that all Prussian territory between the Oder and the Vistula, with its fortresses and those of Silcsia, should be delivered up to him; and that the Russian army, then on the Vistula, should withdraw behind the Niemen. Frederick William naturally preferred to this demand of absolute submission the chances of another campaign, in

union with the Czar, and under conditions much more arduous for the French. British Governments replied to the Berlin decrees by a series of Orders in Council, which annihilated neutral trade, and ultimately brought on war with the United States of America. The King of Prussia now fixed his residence at Köningsberg. Haugwitz and Lucchesini, who had become obnoxious to Alexander, retired, leaving the conduct of foreign relations to General Zastrow. Napoleon proceeded to join his army on the Vistula; welcomed as a liberator with immense enthusiasm by the Poles under Prussian rule; and to find, as Dumouriez had predicted, in time, distance, and climate, antagonists more formidable than any he had hitherto encountered.

Early in November, after Lord Morpeth's return to England, a treaty of peace between Great Britain and Prussia was signed in London by Lord Howick and Count de Jacobi, on the terms required by the British Government. Howick then despatched Lord Hutchinson to represent Great Britain at Frederick William's headquarters. The new envoy was instructed to examine attentively and report on all the circumstances of the military situation in Poland, and to encourage the Prussians to resist Napoleon by cordial offers of help from Great Britain. If the Prussian Government asked for money, he was to reply that the British Government expected that all the resources of Prussia should be exhausted before such a demand was made. Frederick William, it was reported in England, had carried away with him from Berlin a secret hoard of 2,000,000l. Should this rumour prove unfounded, and should Hutchinson be able to satisfy himself that the King was in actual need, and that the expenditure would produce advantageous results for the common interests, he was authorised to advance 200,000l. as a loan, or even as a subsidy. The contrast here between liberal promise and meagre performance is sufficiently marked. There is a great falling off from the 8,000,000l. granted or offered to the allied powers in 1805 by Pitt. But it represented the policy which had been deliberately adopted by the British Ministry. Lord Grenville and Mr. Windham, the War Minister, had come to the conclusion that, in view of the enormous expense of British expeditions to the Continent of Europe as compared with the little effect that could be expected from them, all the available resources of the monarchy should be employed in enterprises which more immediately concerned the particular interests of Great Britain. The Cabinet generally, seem to have adopted this opinion: and the collapse of Prussia only confirmed it. When news reached England of the battle of Jena, Lord FitzWilliam, anticipating the sentiment and almost the with which Canning, nearly, twenty years later, fied the House of Commons, wrote, "There is an electrified the House of Commons, wrote, end of the Old World; we must look to the New."

¹ Windham to Lord Grenville, September 22, 23; Grenville to Windham, September 22, 23.

Lord Auckland urged a concentration of effort in pursuit of merely British interests. Lord Sidmouth alone protested, ineffectually, against sending to America troops which

The attention

should be employed in aiding Prussia.

of Government was now engrossed by a scheme conceived by Lord Grenville for the conquest of Mexico. It apparently embraced several small combined expeditions of troops of all colours, from England, Buenos Ayres, and the East and West Indies. In preparing it Lord Grenville took counsel with Lord Buckingham, and afterwards with Sir Arthur Wellesley, for whom he designed the chief command. It would seem that the execution of it was first fixed for the winter of 1806. Thomas Grenville, now First Lord of the Admiralty, wrote to Lord Buckingham on November 15 that "the attack on Mexico had to be given up on account of the general inefficiency of the naval services." The chief culprit was Admiral Warren, who commanded in the American seas. Writing again on November 25, Grenville asks, "How can I weed out the list of admirals? It is a list of incurables." In fact, at this time British admirals appear to have got out of hand. Some of them, as Popham at Buenos Ayres, and Cochrane who aided General Miranda to raise a revolt in the Caracas, were too enterprising, and acted without or against instructions; the majority were negligent and did less than enough. It may be said in extenuation, they had no longer an enemy in any strength to encounter on the seas. However, the Mexican enterprise was merely postponed. Consultations on the subject between Lord Grenville and Sir Arthur Wellesley were continued during the months of November and December. In December advice was also sought from Lord Holland; and from his friend Mr. Allen, Lady Holland's "pet atheist" of later days, who had made the Spanish colonies a subject of special study. Lord Holland, who, as a traveller, knew far more of the Spanish character than Lord Grenville or any other member of the Cabinet, set his face against an attempt to conquer Mexico for Great Britain. He would help the Mexicans to establish an independent monarchy. But in the greed of acquisition which possessed the Ministry his warnings were rejected. The project being based on the hypothesis that Buenos Ayres still remained in British hands, was illusory; and there can be little doubt that General Whitelocke's disastrous failure to recover that city, which put an end to the scheme, was a "blessing in disguise." In the meantime there were other applications for aid against Napoleon to which the British Cabinet turned a deaf ear. When the Spanish Government, still in the hands of Godoy, Prince of the Peace, learned that the French Emperor had left Paris for another campaign in Germany, it began to arm for the purpose of throwing off his galling yoke. The King, Charles IV, wrote a letter of encouragement and friendly profession to the King of Prussia. He also made an overture through the

¹ Court and Cabinets of George III.

Emperor Alexander of immediate peace with Great Britain, and of eventual alliance, when he had completed his military preparations. Lord Howick replied curtly through the British Minister at St. Petersburgh that the Spanish proposals were inadmissible. No doubt the Mexican project blocked the way. This premature burst of national spirit, which the overthrow of the Prussian monarchy quenched in terror, had to be expiated by an act of atonement which covered the Spanish Government with ridicule. Godoy hastened to congratulute the conqueror, and excused his raising troops by the alleged necessity of repelling an African inroad of the Moors. Napoleon had already found the King of Spain's letter to the King of Prussia in the royal archives at Potsdam.² Dissembling his resentment, he accepted the explanations offered, and requested as a mark of Charles IV's friendship that the recent levies, no longer required apparently to oppose the Moors, should be despatched to his aid. With a promptitude unusual in affairs of Spain, a body of Spanish troops, commanded by the Marquis de la Romana, arrived in North Germany to swell the forces that held Prussia in

subjection to the French Emperor.

There was another urgent claim on its support, which the British Cabinet must have found peculiarly embarrassing. The Emperor Alexander, who was already straining all the resources of the Russian Empire in obstinate efforts to hold Prussian Poland against the Grand Army, applied urgently to Lord Grenville, not for a subsidy which Pitt had so freely given, but for the aid of British credit in raising a Russian loan of 7,000,000l. at five per cent. interest, charged on revenues which, as Mr. Stuart, English Minister at St. Petersburgh reported, offered ample security.3 He pressed the British Government also to help its allies and weaken the common enemy by hostile expeditions to France and Holland.4 And he made repeated complaints of injuries inflicted by British eruisers and prize courts on Russian commerce, in defiance of the treaty of St. Petersburgh. Lord Howick's silence or evasive answers, which were practical denials of the aid and of the redress claimed, aroused bitter resentment at St. Petersburgh. This appearance of selfish indifference occurred too at a moment when Mr. Stuart was importunate with the Czar to guarantee Hanover to George III, and to renew a commercial treaty, very advantageous to England, which was about to expire.5

A financial project which he devised to enable Great Britain "to carry on many years of war without new taxes" also occupied Lord Grenville's mind during the last month of 1806. It was apparently intended to supersede Pitt's famous scheme of a sinking fund, borrowed from Dr. Price, and, as Price

Howick to Stuart, November 14, 1806.—F.O. Despatches. 2 Stuart to Howick, December 18, 1806.—Ibid.

^{Same to same, November 19, 1806.—}*Ibid*.
Same to same, November 28 and December 18, 1806.—*Ibid*.

⁵ Howick to Stewart, September 24, October 3 and November 4, 1806,—Ibid.

complained, spoiled in adoption, which was now generally admitted to be a costly failure. In working out his plan, Lord Grenville called to his aid Lord Auckland and Mr. Vansittart, Secretary of the Treasury, both of them able financiers. They gave him zealous co-operation; but, finding his calculations too sanguine, they suggested various modifications with the view of giving his idea a more practical shape. Discussions on the subject, in which the Chaneellor of the Exchequer took part, seem to have been continued without definite result

to the end of the year.

The rupture of negotiations with France having been popular throughout the country, and particularly among the commercial classes, the general election in November added considerably to the strength of Government in the House of Commons. "I reckon the new Parliament," Lord Grenville wrote on December 2, "at from 430 to 500 friends, from 120 to 130 contrary, and all the rest doubtful or absent." What chiefly arrests attention in connexion with this general election is the unreserve with which a Prime Minister so politically pure and scrupulous as Lord Grenville undoubtedly was, resorted, in those times of rotten boroughs, restricted suffrage, official patronage, to systematic bribery in purchasing seats with public money, and to intimidation of public servants in order to bring his supporters into Parliament. Even Windham, the fearless asserter of the right differ on matters of principle, invoked the vengeance Government on every petty official who ventured oppose by speech or action his candidature for the county of Norfolk.

The King in signifying his approval of the reconstructed Ministry, had been particularly gracious to Lord Grenville. An intrigue of Lord Eldon and the Duke of Cumberland to prevent the dissolution of Parliament had either failed or been abandoned; and when the year 1806 drew to a close the hopes of Opposition had fallen to a very low ebb. But although launched on a smiling sea, and wafted by favouring breezes, there was a rock immediately ahead of the Administration, on which, as Lord Grenville knew well, it might probably suffer

shipwreck. This was the Irish question.

The Act of Union up to this time had belied all the promises of its authors, and confirmed the evil prophecies of its foes. It had dislocated the old machinery of government without supplying new.¹ Absenteeism, with its disastrous effect on industry, trade and social order, had become yearly more of a settled habit among the great landowners. Anarchy reigned in the established Church. Beneficed clergymen, following the example of landlords, deserted their duties and sought more agreeable quarters in England, in defiance of bishops and canon law.² The peasantry, delivered over more completely to

¹ Lord Redesdale to W. Wickham, January 3rd, p, 25, 2 Archbishop of Armagh to W. Elliot, April 8, p. 90; Archbishop of Armagh to the Duke of Bedford, April 27.

the grinding exactions of middlemen and tithe-proctors, sank deeper in misery; and social oppression produced an abundant harvest of secret societies and agrarian crime. The Catholics of the middle class, impatient at finding indefinitely postponed the prospect of a removal of their disabilities with which the authors of the Act of Union had purchased their acquiescence in that measure, now resolved, in spite of the dissuasions of the Irish Government and of some of their more aristocratic leaders who were in closer touch with Government, to resume those methods of constitutional agitation which Irish law still allowed. They had remained passive during the current year in an attitude of expectation. Their last petition for relief had been presented while Pitt was chief Minister, by Fox in the House of Commons; and in the House of Lords by Lord Grenville in a speech of remarkable power, with a cogency and completeness which aroused universal attention. He and the majority of his colleagues were still staunch advocates of their claims. But it was impossible for them as Ministers to introduce an Emancipation Bill in spite of the King's invincible repugnance. In fact, what was known as the Catholic question was one of those which had necessarily been left ""Open" it open" when the Administration was formed. must remain if the Ministry, or any other founded on the same principle of comprehension, was to remain in office.

There was another phase of the Irish question not less

embarrassing for the Prime Minister himself. Lord Bucking-ham, representing apparently the opinions and disposition other absentee proprietors, insisted that outrages perpetrated in the counties of Sligo and Roscommon "Captain Trasher's" band, by incendiaries known as were of a political character; smouldering rebellion in fact, fomented by the French. He urged with all the authority of a former Lord Lieutenant primed with confidential information, that the only remedy lay in "systematic and vigorous coercion" administered by a new form of military tribunal which he proposed to establish in Ireland. Lord Grenville naturally inclined to drastic measures in dealing with popular discontent, and was much governed by his brother's advice. But the Irish Government, better informed from official sources, and directly responsible for public order, could find little or no trace of treasonable correspondence; and as the Irish Law Officers considered the ordinary process of law sufficient to quell local disorder, neither the Duke of Bedford, nor his Chief Secretary, William Elliot, nor Lord Spencer at the Home Office, would consent to the introduction of any system of arbitrary It must also be said that, since the passing of the repression. Act of Union, Lord Grenville, under a sense no doubt of particular responsibility for that measure, had turned his attention more fully to the causes of Irish discontent, and the remedial legislation they required. During the course of 1806 he more than once urged the Duke of Bedford to prepare some plan for relieving Catholic tenants of the excessive burthen of tithes. The Duke, like Lord Grenville himself, a zealous member of the Church of England, showed himself fully alive to the pressing need of this reform. But he was a very timid politician. He feared that the Orange party, which assumed to be the special guardian of Protestant interests, should raise against him the cry of the "Church in danger" unless he acted in a matter of this kind in concert with the Archbishop of Armagh, and other members of the episcopal body. His fears, and a want of opportunities for consultation, seem to have deferred the official expression of his very cautious

suggestions until the following year.

Another Irish project lay very near Lord Grenville's heart; one inspired chiefly by Imperial needs, but also having for its objects the partial removal of an Irish grievance, and the directing into a useful channel of Irish energies now running to waste. Since the beginning of the war against the French Revolution, in 1793, the efforts of the British Government against France had been greatly hampered by inability to raise at home sufficient troops for foreign service. Flourishing industries and world-wide trade gave the working classes of Great Britain more attractive occupation. In Ireland artificial social conditions, resulting from conquest and penal laws, caused a dearth of employment. And, to complete the contrast, abundant material for admirable soldiers was furnished by a teeming population of men only too willing to escape from sordid poverty and enforced idleness by embracing a military life. But here religious intolerance barred the way. By an Act of the Irish Parliament, passed in 1793, Catholics were allowed to hold all commissions in the army up to the rank of general on the staff. At this time the Irish army was a separate force, limited in number to 18,000 men, which could only be moved from the island by the consent of the Irish Parliament. The Act of Union abolished the Irish army and did not give the Irish Act of 1793 validity in other parts of His Majesty's dominions. The consequence was that, when Irish regiments were moved over to England, Catholic officers lost their commissions, and Catholic soldiers were compelled to attend Protestant worship. This intolerant spirit completely checked recruiting in most parts of Ireland, and cost the Government dear. Year after year various expedients, one more costly and ineffective than another, were adopted by the Imperial Parliament to enable Ministers to fulfil their engagements to foreign powers, or despatch expeditions for national objects. These difficulties seem to have suggested to Lord Grenville the idea of raising in Ireland Catholic regiments with Catholic officers for service in Malta, Sicily, Portugal, South America or any other country where their religion prevailed. By this means he thought the effect intended might be given to the Irish Act of 1793, the military needs of Government might be amply supplied, and the elements of agrarian disorder in Ireland considerably

weakened. The project, however, received but little encouragement from the Irish Government. It would create a distinction, Bedford thought, likely to arouse jealousies and suspicions among the Protestants; and invidious to the Catholics themselves, who aimed at equality of civil and political rights with their fellow-citizens of the dominant creed. Could not Grenville, he suggested, induce the military authorities to give Windham's Act a fair trial by, allowing freedom of worship to Catholic soldiers? But Lord Grenville, now bent on the conquest of Mexico, clung to his idea with characteristic tenacity. Writing on December 29 to congratulate the Lord Lieutenant on the repression of outrage in Connaught, he again urged the adoption of his scheme of raising Catholic regiments, as a measure not only beneficial to Ireland, but of great importance to the interests of the whole Empire.

WALTER FITZPATRICK.

Note.—Some errors in regard to names, overlooked in the revision of the Introduction to Volume VII, are corrected in a list of errata prefixed to this Volume.



THE MANUSCRIPTS OF

J. B. FORTESCUE, Esq.,

PRESERVED AT DROPMORE.

VOL VIII.

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, January 31.—" In humble obedience to your Majesty's commands, Lord Grenville has communicated with such persons as appeared to him best able to assist in framing such a plan of an administration as might, under the present difficult and arduous circumstances, be most likely to carry on the government with advantage to your Majesty's service.

"It is with their concurrence that he has now the honour humbly to submit to your Majesty that the Cabinet council might, if your Majesty were pleased to approve of it, consist of the following persons holding the respective offices under-

mentioned :-

Lord Chancellor Lord President Lord Privy Seal

Secretary of State, Foreign Department Mr. Fox.

,, ,, Home Department ,, ,, War Department

First Lord of the Admiralty Lord Lieutenant of Ireland Chancellor of the Exchequer First Lord of the Treasury Mr. Erskine. Earl Fitzwilliam. Viscount Sidmouth.

Earl Spencer. Mr. Windham. Mr. Grey.

Earl of Moira. Lord Henry Petty. Lord Grenville.

"And to this Cabinet, if your Majesty approved of it, it would also be proposed that Lord Ellenborough, your Majesty's

Chief Justice of the King's Bench, should be added.

"No new arrangement is here submitted to your Majesty respecting the important office of Master General of the Ordnance, until it shall be known whether the Earl of Moira shall be willing to undertake the situation of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which proposition Lord Moira's absence from London has obliged Lord Grenville to submit to your Majesty without his Lordship's knowledge.

"It would be farther humbly proposed, that Lord Minto should be President of the Board of Control for India; Lord "Lord Auckland, President of the Committee of your Majesty's Privy Council for the affairs of Trade; General Fitzpatrick, Secretary at War; and Mr. Pigott and Mr. Romilly, Attorney and Solicitor General.

"Lord Grenville has thus presumed to lay before your Majesty the humble opinion of the persons with whom he has communicated as to the formation of a Cabinet, and the disposal of the principal offices of business, agreeably to what he understood to be your Majesty's pleasure. The arrangements for the Boards and other offices of less importance would be formed on a similar principle of comprehending as much as possible those persons of different descriptions who might appear likely to be most useful to the carrying on your Majesty's service.

"Lord Grenville cannot submit these ideas to your Majesty on the part of the persons above named, or still more, on his own part, without expressing at the same time the deepest sense of the difficulties of the different situations which it is here proposed that they should respectively undertake, together with the humble assurance of their desire to manifest to the utmost of their power by every part of their conduct their zeal for the honour and interests of your Majesty's government, and their respect, duty, and attachment to your Majesty's

Royal Person.

"The arrangements to be made respecting the defence of the country and the administration of the military service in all its extensive and various branches, must, of necessity, form the first object of attention to any persons whom your Majesty may be pleased under the present circumstances of public affairs to call to your service. And in the present moment the persons above named only venture to express the hope that, should your Majesty be pleased to call them to your confidential councils, they may be honoured with your Majesty's gracious confidence on the whole of these important matters without appearing to transgress the limits of their duty; and that your Majesty will be favourably disposed to the discussion of such measures respecting it as, on a full examination of the subject, aided by those means of information which official situations can alone furnish to them, shall appear to them advantageous or necessary to be submitted for your Majesty's consideration.

"It would at all times be the earnest wish of the persons above named to avoid to the utmost of their power submitting to your Majesty proposals for extending the peerage. But, in the first formation of a new Government, they trust that your Majesty would not be disinclined to honour with that dignity a very few persons, not exceeding four or five at the utmost, all of them of such rank and station in life as seem to point them out as unexceptionable objects for your Majesty's favour in that respect." Copy,

LORD GRENVILLE to HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, January 31. London.—"I do not trouble your Royal Highness by intruding myself upon you again this morning, nothing more having passed except the King's taking for consideration the whole of what I was charged to lay before his Majesty, and acquainting me that his Majesty would send for me when he had taken his determination. His Majesty kept me almost half an hour, and was very gracious in his personal expressions towards me." Holograph copy.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, January 31. Carlton House.—" If you have a quarter of an hour to spare between one and two o'clock to-morrow, I should be happy to have five minutes conversation with you, as there has something come to my knowledge, which I think will not be entirely disagreeable to you to know, as it is certainly of no small importance."

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, February 1.—"The Prince of Wales orders me to tell you that he wishes to see you to-morrow at Carlton House. He names no hour, but says if you name that on which you will call, he will be ready to receive you. He wishes you to shew him the paper submitted to his Majesty, and I should be much obliged to you if you would send me a copy of the paragraph respecting the Army. I shall shew it to Lord Sidmouth, and I suppose you will wish soon to have a meeting at which he should assist, but that as you think fit. I think the King cannot patch up an administration; but, even if he ean, it is a great satisfaction for us to stand on publick ground and not on that of particular arrangement. I have little doubt of the public being with us, unless we manage our cause very ill. Lord Hawkesbury is to be at the Queen's House to-morrow morning at eleven."

LORD GRENVILLE to HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, February I. London.—"I have just done myself the honour to pay my duty at Carlton House, to mention that his Majesty required my attendance this evening at half past eight, and that his Majesty appeared very desirous of receiving further explanation as to the extent of the ideas in contemplation, respecting the administration of the military service. After I had gone as far on that subject as I was authorized by the opinions of those in whose name I spoke, as well as by my own, his Majesty observed that the matter required further consideration,

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and, after near an hour's audience, dismissed me. - His Majesty's manner throughout the whole, was perfectly calm and collected, and his expressions very gracious, although it was evident that the matter was one in which he took the deepest interest. No particular time was mentioned for his Majesty's further answer on the subject." Copy by the Marquis of Buckingham.

EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 1. Milton.—"I thank you for the communication of the plan of the Cabinet. I approve of the attention paid to the King's feelings and prejudices. I need say nothing with respect to the remainder; that must be as satisfactory to me, as I believe it will be found gratifying to the public. One alteration however I wish to suggest, and that is a change of office between Lord Sidmouth and myself; probably the change will be gratifying to him, I am sure it will be most acceptable to me. I begged Charles Fox to propose it, but I am afraid he has overlooked my request, and perhaps he did not feel the extent of my anxiety about it; but if there is no solid objection, pray let it be done; many, many reasons make me wish it.

"Should the King approve the plan, and the change of adm[inistratio]n take effect, I must beg you to solicit the King's permission for me to remain, some days longer in the country. In truth, this week has not passed off well; though Milton has gained ground in point of bodily strength, his head has been very disagreeably affected, so much so, as to make us very uneasy. I believe it has been owing to his own imprudence. He was so imprudent as to read a good deal one evening; he did so at the time without fatigue and with perfect comprehension of the subject, but the next day, when he took up a book, he could not read a paragraph, all was confusion; and this confusion, or the dread of it has hung upon him from that day to this. Happily this morning he seems, and admits himself to be better in that respect; however, for the sake of precaution a blister is put on this morning.

"I do not then ask a few days suspension of my acceptance of office without just cause. I cannot leave him and Lady Fitzwilliam, till I see these symptoms disappear, and no

trace of them remain."

Postscript.—"Lord Dundas has cast a longing eye upon the Post Office; if contrary to all probability it has not found an occupier, let mc suggest his name."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, February 1. Eden Farm.—"I have been glad to keep out of the reach of the idle communications and speculations of this speculating week. I trust however that,

if I should have the good fortune to find you at eleven o'clock next Monday, I shall then hear that all is settled, and with a graciousness which may gradually ripen into cordiality.

"The character and permanency of the new Government must depend eventually on the wisdom of its measures, and on the providential results of those measures. But there are many subordinate points which will occur from day to day, and which, however inferior in their importance, ought not to be neglected. For instance, and in the supposition that the arrangements will have been sanctioned this day or to-morrow, it is not immaterial that the whole, in one correct statement, should be sent at the same time to be inserted in each of the Monday's newspapers. If your official access to so fair a proceeding is not yet opened, it may be managed through Mr. Freeling. An abridged, imperfect, or erroneous account would be attended with evident inconvenience. complete statement when presented in one point of view cannot fail to give a right and useful impression both at home and abroad. I have thought this suggestion material enough to be forwarded by a servant. It is connected with a much larger consideration respecting the good and evil to be derived from the public prints; of which hereafter."

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to THE SAME.

1806, February 1. Clifford Street.—"I am this moment favoured with your letter—having left town yesterday evening—and return you many thanks for the satisfaction it afforded me. Vansittart feels himself highly indebted to your Lordship for the very flattering sentiments which you have expressed concerning him."

Private. The Same to The Same.

1806, February 1. Richmond Park.—"I cannot forbear troubling you in consequence of the extreme dissatisfaction with which the report of the intended law appointments has been received by the profession and the public, as far as I can judge from all that I have observed and heard in the course of this morning. Considering the immense mass of property and the important interests of other descriptions upon which the decisions of the Court of Chancery must operate, it is a harassing reflection that the individual who is thought of to preside in that court—where he can have no assistant—will have all his business to learn. is however true that there is great difficulty in making a proper choice; an offer has been made to Sir James Mansfield and declined; and Sir William Grant seems to be the only other person whose sufficiency for such a station appears to be generally admitted. Of his parliamentary and professional talents there can be but one opinion, and I am convinced that he might be cordially and firmly attached to your

Government. If such an appointment should not be thought advisable, would it not be right to put the Seals into commission, and reserve Erskine for a vacancy, which must soon occur in the Common Pleas, for the supply of which he is eminently qualified. In that case, he might hold the office of Attorney General in the interval, and prevent the appointment of Pigot, who though a good lawyer, and an honourable man, has not sufficient weight of character for such a situation. Is it not also expedient to reconsider the proposed appointment of Ponsonby in Ireland. Believe me, the report of it has given general uneasiness. It has been suggested by Lord Ellenborough that an opening might be made for Esrkine in the Court of Exchequer, before he succeeds to the Common Pleas, by giving the Seals of Ircland to Sir Archibald Macdonald; an appointment which, if not highly desirable, is at least not discreditable, and one which incidentally, might be attended with effect by no means unimportant at this time. This arrangement would also smooth the way for Erskine to the Court of Chancery, if the Chief Justiceship of the Common Pleas should not soon become vacant. very short time, Romilly will be ripe for the highest situation in the profession.

"I have to beg your pardon for obtruding these opinions; I have done so very reluctantly, and I am sure you will give me credit for my motive. The opinions which I have ventured to express are, I know, entertained by persons of the greatest respectability belonging to the profession of the law, who are very anxious for the credit and success of the whole of the new arrangement; no part of which will attract the observation or influence the sentiments and disposition of the public more than that which relates to the law appoint-

ments."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 1. Pall Mall.—"Though I remain of the same opinion which I stated to you yesterday as to the way in which it may be right to settle that part of the army business which relates to the nomination to commissions, yet the whole of that question requires so much consideration, that it will be well, in any conversation which may take place upon it, to leave the subject as much open as possible. The idea of some common control over all the branches of army expenditure, if it ever can be realised, must, I am persuaded, be quite separate, and vested in quite different hands from that of a military council for the conduct of military operations and arrangements for defence. We must see, however, what can be done; but I have no notion at present that any effectual control can be given from the Secretary of State's Office to the Barrack or Commissary's Department; and, as for the Secretaryship at War, it has not the smallest want of control, there being at present neither abuse, nor any temptation to abuse, except that which may arise from relaxation of diligence; which, certainly, an officer of less consideration than the Secretary at War must be supposed equal to prevent.

"With respect to the Barrack Department, and, I suppose, Commissariat, the matter stands thus. The Commander in Chief (or whatever power should be substituted in his room) orders the service, the Treasury looks to the expenditure. Should the superintendence of the expenditure be transferred to the Sécretaryship at State, you will see plainly that a separate description of persons must be employed in it. Those who are the most fit to determine the service are commonly the least so to control and check the charge, and vice versa; and, therefore, I do not see what could be gained by transferring that superintendence from the Treasury.

"I state these ideas thus early, not merely because the subject is pressing, but with a view to any conversation which

may arise upon it in your next interview."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, February 2. Park Lane.—"Having received several letters from India by the Medusa, I conceive it to be my duty to state to you my sentiments on some points of considerable importance and pressing exigency in the actual condition of affairs.

"It is my decided opinion that Sir George Barlow should be immediately confirmed in the Government, with the full appointment of Governor General; that his Council should be completed, and that Lord Lake should be empowered to resume the chief command of the King's and Company's troops throughout India.

"I am satisfied that these arrangements are infinitely more safe in the present moment than any other plan which

could be suggested."

LORD GRENVILLE tO VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.

1806, February 2. Camelford House.—"I saw the King again last night. He appeared extremely desirous to receive a particular explanation of what might be intended to be done on the subject of the arrangements for the defence of the country, and for the military administration, under the general reference which it had been thought necessary to make to that subject in the paper laid before his Majesty.

"It was obviously necessary to confine my answer to the assurance that nothing was intended except the liberty of laving before his Majesty those suggestions which a sense of duty and a more accurate knowledge of the subject, resulting from official information, might render indispensable; and that, as we did not presume to ask his Majesty's previous consent to any particular measures on that point, so, on the other hand, we trusted that we should be left at liberty to consider, without any previous reserve on his Majesty's part, the whole of a subject on which the safety and actual existence of the country might, within a few months, be entirely to depend.

After much discussion on this ground, but without making any advance beyond what is here stated, his Majesty dismissed

me, saying that the subject required further consideration. "I am obliged to go to Carlton House, the Prince having directed me to attend him. I should otherwise have called upon you to mention these particulars. If any further communication is received from the King, it will be necessary that we should all meet to consider of it; but that will probably not be sooner than to-morrow, at the earliest.

"I have received your letter this morning, and shall be

glad to talk with you about it when we see each other."

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 3. Queen's Palace.—"The King has considered that part of the paper delivered to him by Lord Grenville which relates to the defence of the country, and

the administration of the military service.

"The King regrets that the paragraph to which he refers together with any explanation he has been able to procure, should be of so general a nature as to render it impossible to pass it by without notice, or to answer it with any precision. His Majesty has no desire to restrain his confidential servants from the most thorough investigation into the various and extensive branches of the military service, and he will be favourably disposed to consider any measures relating to this important subject, which upon a full examination may be laid before him.

"The King therefore desires that Lord Grenville will, with as little delay as possible, after conferring with those persons with whom he acts, convey to him specially on paper, for his consideration, the explanation which his Majesty requires; and the King must be understood as reserving to himself at all times the undoubted right of deciding on the measures which may be proposed to him respecting the military service, or the administration of it, both with reference to the prerogatives of the Crown, and the nature and expediency of the measures themselves."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, February 3. Spencer House.—"Lord Grenville has obeyed your Majesty's commands by communicating to the persons with whom he acts the paper which your Majesty was graciously pleased to deliver to him this morning.

"He is desired humbly to assure your Majesty that the sentiments which Your Majesty has there the goodness to express fully answer every object of the paragraph to which

your Majesty refers. The persons in question have uniformly felt that in their present situations it would be impossible for them to frame their opinions beforehand on the particular measures best to be submitted respecting the defence of the country, and the administration of the military service in all its extensive and various branches. But from the moment that your Majesty is graciously pleased to declare that your Majesty has no desire to restrain your confidential servants from the thorough investigation of this important subject, and will be favourably disposed to consider any measures relating to it which upon a full examination may be laid before your Majesty, they feel that they can have nothing further to ask upon this point. They trust your Majesty could not for a moment doubt that they know too well the respect they owe to your Majesty and the limits of their duty, not to be fully sensible that upon this, as upon every other branch of administration, it is your Majesty's pleasure that can alone decide on the adoption or rejection of any measures which your Majesty's ministers may at any time submit to your Majesty's consideration." Holograph сору.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 3. [Pall Mall.]—"I have thought myself round on the subject of the army patronage, and, in conjunction with Elliot, am of opinion that that great instrument, with the credit to be derived from a most correct use of it, will be absolutely necessary to carry me through the frightful task which I shall have to perform. I am not sure, too, whether to give an air of unity and system to the whole, something must not be done of the sort which you have had in view. But this will be matter of consideration. The Secretary for the War Department must stand to the Commander of the Forces in the relation in which the Lord Lieutenant formerly did to the Commander in Chief in Ireland, leaving the current details to the Commander in Chief, but interfering whenever he saw fit, and having in his hands the nomination of all commissions. This seems to be [the] nearest analogy.

"A consideration of quite another kind has been newly started, which fills me with no small anxiety, and which is an odd one to have been overlooked even by a person as little attentive, as I hope I generally am, to my own interest. The Secretary of the War Department does not receive, I understand, the same salary as the others. This is a matter of the most serious nature. I can do anything but break in upon the independence of my private situation; and that I must do if the salary of the office will not defray its expenses. We must talk of this at more leisure, for I must lose no time in

sending off my letter."

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, February 4. Arlington Strect.—"I write you this line to say that the Prince of Wales wishes you very much to call either before or after you go to the Queen's House. I recommended before because you cannot be kept. I should be obliged to you also if you would not mention Lord Charles Somerset for the Tower to-day, as there is a doubt whether it ought not to be given to Moira. The Prince wishes you, if any difficulty is made about Erskine, to say you had made the offers you have made, and that Lord Ellenborough gave it as his opinion [....] was the fittest man in England."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, February 4. Queen's Palace.—"The King finds that the Secretaries of State will be ready to resign the seals of their offices to-morrow, and therefore desires that Lord Grenville will give due notice to Lord Spencer and Mr. Windham to attend here at two o'clock to-morrow to receive them. As Lord Westmoreland is desirous of delivering up the seals of his office at the same time, his Majesty thinks it right to point out to Lord Grenville the expediency of his successor's being also required to attend here at the above hour, and it will be necessary that a Council should be held to-morrow.

"The Chancellor has informed his Majesty that he will have closed the business of his office on Friday night, and he will attend here at two o'clock on that day to resign the

seals."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, February 4. Camelford House.—"Lord Grenville will not fail to apprize Lord Sidmouth, Lord Spencer, and Mr. Windham of your Majesty's commands that they should attend to-morrow at the Queen's House at two o'clock to receive the seals of the offices which your Majesty is pleased to confer upon them; and he will also apprize Sir Stephen Cottrell that a Council is to be summoned for that day, when, if your Majesty approves of it, Mr. Fox and Lord Temple may be sworn of your Majesty's Privy Council." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 4. Palace Yard.—"I am apprehensive that you may feel too much interrupted by me, and yet it would be painful to keep back any communications that may seem at this moment to deserve your attention. As soon as the (first rate) vessel of the new Government shall be fairly launched, I shall have less to say, and easier means of saying it.

"I enclose three papers. Number I seems to have been meant for your perusal; and if it were not, it is proper that you should know the candid and friendly disposition of the writer, who has excellent qualities in private life, and whose good will and good word are not immaterial in a public view.

"Number 2 was certainly written to be in substance repeated to you, and fully confirms what I said yesterday. The individual alluded to may be pressed on you, but whether you may find him either useful or ornamental at your Board

may be matter of doubt.

"Number 3 came to me four days ago. I declined the suggestion; and not merely because I suspected the object to be unattainable. The ability of the young man (even if he had not had the advantage of being taught his syntax by you at Sêve) might soon have been equal to the undertaking. But I am not desirous to see the powers and active period of his mind sunk in the great bog of Indian politics, however important they are. If the public situation can be carried forwards with the fair hope of public safety, some mode of employing him may, ere long, present itself to your favourable recollection: in the mean time all the chiefs of the law assure me that he is employing himself as well as possible in their courts and society.

"Have the goodness either to return this packet to me when we meet, or if that should be too troublesome, destroy it.

"I shall see Mr. Freeling to-morrow, and will examine him as to the point of which we talked yesterday, and which I think almost essential to be put into a right system. If he can be of use in it, you will find him perfectly safe and discreet.

"It cannot be necessary for you to come to the House to-day if you prefer staying away. The papers to be presented are very voluminous and must of course be printed, and any of us can intimate that, as soon as they are printed, you will propose an early day for their consideration. But many other papers will probably be necessary to explain the treaties; and also to elucidate the strange and manifest errors in the application of our force, pending and subsequent to the late most disastrous campaign. Some account is wanting of the remittance actually made, or considered as still due.

"Lord Temple sent to me through my son some very obliging assurances on the occasion of our being destined to the same harness. You are aware (I presume) that he must be sworn in at the Council, when I also should attend, and the Board will then be constituted by a minute of Council."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, February 4. [Pall Mall.]—"When I first heard of the business of Calcraft, I was decidedly of your opinion, considering it as nothing less than an inlet to the House of Commons from Carlton House; but I have good reason since to think that the fact is not so; that it is Fox much more

than the Prince that is anxious for this; and that not so much for any particular party view, as from the real advantage which he would derive from a man so long practised, and so well versed in the business. Calcraft is, moreover, as I have always understood, a man less engaged in the intrigue of Carlton House, and more adverse to it, than any one connected with that establishment.

"It is at least worth while to consider these facts, if such they are, and let them weigh in your own mind, even if they

should not be seen to do so in your language.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 4. [Pall Mall.]—"I have been just told that there is some idea of Lord Folkestone's having a seat at the Admirably Board. Let me beg you to give me a line if such is the fact, that I may know, if it should not be known at present, whether he is disposed to accept office; which I am not informed of at present, not having spoke to him upon the subject since I found from what you said that the Treasury, which alone I happened to have in my head at the time I spoke to you, was likely to be filled by persons of another description.

I have not told you all the grief and all the self-reproach I feel upon the subject of Lawrence; whose case, as connected with my conduct in it, destroys whatever little comfort I could find in the undertaking in which we have engaged. It would be some consolation if a Lordship of the Admiralty could be offered to him (for I don't know that he could accept it) provided Grey should feel no objection, which is very possible that he might, though perfectly well disposed towards Lawrence in general. In that case Lord Folkestone might, I am sure, be put by with perfect safety, even if he should be disposed for such a situation.

"I hope we shall have a few minutes for conversation before we are called into the King to-morrow. Or perhaps you do not go there? I should like to know whether, if the King were to allude to the Council stated by the Morning Chronicle as being intended to be placed about the Duke of York, I might say that certainly no such measure had been in contemplation. Perhaps it will be better to give no answer about this or anything else; but it seems to me altogether impossible that such could be the course of proceeding. Though Fox did throw out that idea in the debate on Crauford's motion, it seems to me, of all others, that which the Duke of York would consider as more humiliating; and from the choice which could be made of the members, that which would be the least effectual. It is clear, however, that it would be best for the present to say nothing about it.

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to THE SAME.

1806, February 4. Buckingham House.—" On my return home last night I found a note from the Prince of Wales

commanding me for 2 o'clock, and at three I saw him. He at once announced his earnest wish that I would assist as far as I was able a very anxious and favourite wish of his, which I discovered, long before he had finished, to be the appointment of Mr. Calcraft to the Secretaryship of the Treasury, which he turned in various points as one most practicable, inasmuch as you would have, at all events, two confidential secretaries, Mr. Vansittart and the third vice Mr. Harrison; and the arrangement was now entirely open, inasmuch as you had excused yourself to him from the necessity of appointing Mr. Elliott and Mr. King, and by Elliott's acceptance of Ireland that appointment was now vacant; and then followed the enumeration of Mr. Calcraft's qualifica-

tions and of his Royal Highness's eternal obligations.

"I stated in answer my utter ignorance of your arrangements on this subject, and that nothing short of his commands should induce me to speak to you on a matter in which I feel that I had personally no right, save his orders, to say one word. But that perhaps it might be right for me to set his Royal Highness right in one particular, namely, that Mr. Vansittart was almost a perfect stranger to you, named upon public grounds only to that situation; and that the most material, if not the only feature in that appointment, was the desire of marking by it every facility to the wish which his Royal Highness had so often commanded me to express to you of forwarding Lord Sidmouth's co-operation in this new Govern-And therefore the compliance with his Royal Highness's wishes, if it were now practicable, of which I know nothing, would in fact leave you with only one confidential man in the most confidential of all situations, even admitting that Mr. Harrison could be removed, which I did not know was certain; but that, in all events, the third secretary could not sit in Parliament, so that in fact under such an arrangement, you would not have one secretary in the House of Commons.

"I took care to state all this as my idea of the difficulty, professing not to know your thoughts upon it. He then endeavoured to find out what view you might have by asking me who I brought in for St. Mawes; and I answered that it would be Mr. Wyndham, but if he stood for Norfolk I should give you the seat for your secretary; or should, if you did not want it, arrange it in some way for George Nugent. He ended

in commanding me to press Calcraft upon you.

"Lord Moira called upon me to desire me to tell you 'what from old habits he could more easily express to me than to you, his earnest and anxious hope that you would look upon him as most determined to consider this as your Government, and to give to you every possible confidence, even to the sacrifice of his own opinions to yours on every point in which it could be possible for you to think differently in Cabinet; knowing that on all essential points your ideas agreed most perfectly.'

"It seemed to me as if he feared that something he had said had made impressions which he wished to remove.

"The chase is followed up hotly, for 12 o'clock at night. I have a received a letter from Mr. Calcraft desiring me from his Royal Highness to allow him to see me to-morrow at twelve; to which pour vos beaux yeux I agree, rather than give you the trouble of killing your own Hotspur; and I shall not

see his Royal Highness till after that interview.

"As you have already expressed yourself so kindly disposed towards Fremantle, is there any objection, in case the third lot should be pressed, to say that it is ascertained to be clerkship, and arranged by you on that idea to a person in your confidence; for, on reading your letter again, I think you leave that point of attack too open. Do not mistake me as pressing for F[remantle] by this suggestion, but as fencing for you."

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM.

1806, February 4. Camelford House.—"You well know what extreme reluctance I must feel to the opposing any difficulties in the way of an object in which the Prince of Wales condescends to interest himself. But, in truth, I have already given to the subject the fullest and most anxious consideration. The objections which I feel to the appointment of Mr. Calcraft have no reference to the character or situation of that gentleman, who, I doubt not, is worthy of every confidence, and to whom the best recommendation would be the interest which his Royal Highness is so good as to take in his behalf. do they depend on the particular arrangements which I have made, or had it in contemplation to make, for the individuals whom I have looked to for that office. What I feel as absolutely indispensable both to my own comfort, and my own honour, is that in the most confidential of all situations, I should have the assistance of a person in whom, from former habits and acquaintance, I can at once and entirely confide.

"Mr. Vansittart was a perfect stranger to me, and the reasons which led me to think of his appointment have already been truly stated by you to the Prince; but I neither could have agreed to that nomination, nor could I ever have entertained for an instant the idea of undertaking as I did most unwillingly the office I now hold, except under the persuasion that the choice of the secretaries of the Treasury was after that to be left entirely to myself, to be regulated not merely by the comparative merit of the individuals, but by the degree of previous confidence which former knowledge might lead me

to repose in them.

"Of Mr. Harrison I know nothing; but I learn that his situation is very considerably inferior to that of the two other secretaries, both in rank and in emolument; is not tenable with Parliament; and is rather the station of a first clerk

than of a joint secretary.

"I have gone into this long detail in order that you may be enabled to satisfy his Royal Highness both that you have fully executed the orders with which he was pleased to charge you; and also that nothing but the most cogent reasons, such as I have here stated to you, could induce me to express any reluctance to comply with what I know to be so much desired by his Royal Highness." Copy.

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, February [5]. Arlington Street.—"I was at dinner when your note came, and did not recollect to mention to you a eircumstance which I heard since I saw you this morning.

"I have good reason to believe that the office of Constable of the Tower is one on which Lord Moira would set a great value, and therefore, if it should come in your way, I wish you would either mention him for it to his Majesty, or at least decline any arrangement that may throw any difficulties in the way of Lord Moira's having it.

"I have likewise been informed from an authority that is very good, that the King came to town resolved on acquiescence without reserve, and that our seeming to have any inclination to give way more than decency requires would do rather harm than good. I cannot conclude this note without repeating to you how very much grieved I am at your resolution respecting Calcraft. I see more mischiefs arising from this circumstance than I can describe. I shall stay at

home for you."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, February 5. Charles Street.—"I have just left Fox who is perfectly and entirely satisfied with what you have written upon the subject of Lord Albemarle. Lord Moira tells Fox that Tierney will probably not take the Ordnance, though he would take the joint Paymaster. Surely the best possible arrangement would be for Lord J. Townshend to go to the Ordnance, Courteney to the Treasury, and Tierney to the Pay Office. By this mode you will avoid all question of Courtenay being a Privy Councillor, and I am persuaded that you will find Courtenay quite as pleasant and practicable at your Board as Lord J. Townshend. I am persuaded this is the best; Fox thinks so too, but merely submits it to your consideration as he himself has no preference. Surely Tierney's being in office is worth this arrangement."

5 o'clock.—"I have talked over the Secretaryship of the Treasury, and thought it over as much as I can, and I remain persuaded that the best thing you can do is to make King immediately your second, and Fremantle your third. This arrangement seems better than any other which occurs, and will stop all present question, while it affords the best facilities for the future perhaps, in letting Fremantle, after some

experience, naturally succeed to King; a succession, however, which I should recommend to you not to engage for, but to

keep entirely in your hands.

"Lord Buckingham desired me to give you the enclosed papers. The letter is one of discontent from the Prince; the printed paper is on the Catholic question, and is, as Lord Buckingham says, absolutely necessary to be read by you.

"Is it not worth while to think of the government of Isle of Wight for Lord Leicester or Lord Chichester, or some more steady politician? Lord Buckingham says it is 1,400l. per annum; and I confess that, if you are still in great want of offices, I do not see why Lord Bolton should be suffered to hold that. Would it not dulcify the P[rince]?"

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, February 6. Arlington Street.—H. Addington is to have the Board of Control. Yesterday his brother insisted he should not take the labouring oar, open the Budget. To-day he (Lord Sidmouth) insisted he should open the Budget. To-night H. Addington, who has just left me, says that whether he is to take the active part or not is entirely indifferent to him, and leaves that matter to us. So, before he calls or writes again, I think myself at liberty to say that he accepts the Board of Control without conditions. Lord John Townshend I wish to be joint Paymaster.

I forgot to ask you to-day whether you would have any objection to my getting rid of Hammond; he is, I believe, well provided for in case of retirement. The Queen's civility to me to-day was quite marked, especially as it is the first time

she spoke to me since 1788.

Postscript.—"Pray speak to any members of the House of Commons you may see, to be down to make a ballot to-morrow, for, if one cannot be made, not only the Writs but the

Exchequer Bills must all be delayed.

"I have no objection to Sullivan, and I rather think he was mentioned and assented to. The objection to Johnstone seems to be that according to my notion of the act he must be a Privy Councillor.

"I believe I forgot to mention that Lord William Russell

does accept the Stick."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

[1806, February 6. Camelford House.]—"Lord Grenville begs leave to acquaint your Majesty that Lord Archibald Hamilton, whom he has submitted to your Majesty for the Treasury, desired yesterday to decline accepting that situation; and as it was necessary that no time should be lost in making out that Commission, Lord Grenville thought your Majesty would approve of his taking the liberty to direct that Lord Althorpe's name should be inserted in that Commission,

and Lord William Russell's in the Admiralty Commission in

lieu of Lord Althorpe.

"And he begs leave further to mention that, if your Majesty should be graciously pleased to approve of it, Lord Ossulstone would be humbly submitted to your Majesty for the White Stick now held by Lord Stopford." Holograph copy.

J. H. Addington to Lord Grenville.

1806, February 6. Clifford Street.—"I could not fail to be highly gratified by the manner in which your Lordship received the suggestion made through my brother last night, which was dictated by the satisfaction I could safely anticipate in

being a member of a Board at which you presided.

"This morning I have had opportunities, which had not before presented themselves, of making particular enquiries as to the duties which would belong to an efficient member of the Board of Control; and am not without reason for hoping that a little industry might enable me to discharge them without dissatisfaction to myself, of which I had before been led to entertain great doubts. I have therefore waited on Mr. Fox this evening; and, to preclude the inconvenience of any further suspense as far as I am concerned, have declared to him my intention of accepting a seat at that Board, leaving it only open to be determined whether Lord Morpeth or myself should take the active part in the House of Commons; which I neither solicit, or decline.

"Under these circumstances, I have thought it right to trouble your Lordship with the result of much consideration on my part, to which, I own, that prudential ones have a little contributed; that you may not be kept in suspense as to the mode of filling up the Treasury commission. Before, however, this step is finally taken, I should hope that you would have the goodness to mention the subject to Mr. Fox; though I cannot doubt but that he must have understood me distinctly to have accepted of the former appointment."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, February 6. [Pall Mall.]—"I saw his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and have put in train what is necessary, as well with respect to Lord Lake's commission which rests now entirely with his Royal Highness, as to the allotment of the troops returning from the Continent. The Duke will send a list of the troops intended to disembark here, and of those that are to proceed to Ireland, and an order will then be sent from my Office directing the transports, as they arrive, to regulate themselves accordingly. His Royal Highness's idea is, and I think a very right one, not to send back the same troops to Ireland, but only the same number. Of the Hanoverians too he wishes to make a separation, in the manner in which I believe you understood him; that is, to send the

older part of levy to Ireland, and the more recent one to keep here. The Hanoverian artillery, too, he proposes for Ireland.

"I am sorry for the conversation which you have had about the exchange of the Commanders of the Forces here and in Scotland; not only because, regularly, I ought to have been a party to it, but because I doubt very much whether it will be advantageous. If the Duke of York continues in his present situation, the difference may not be much. But if there should be any change in respect to the Duke of York, the difference would be immense. It was a case that I was talking over lately with General FitzPatrick. Though it might be desirable that, in case of any increasing prospect of attack, Lord M[oira] should be appointed to the command of the forces here, there were many reasons for deferring that step at present, and, certainly, for not deciding upon it without further consideration.

"The enclosed note I have just got from Grey. I have answered it, describing with good humour what I think of the unreasonableness of a person who, with the whole patronage of the navy and three out of the six lords of the Admiralty, is now grasping at a fourth; and stating the utter impossibility of retracting an offer actually made, even if I could have given way before, which I did not pretend to say that I could.

Postscript.—"Should it be true, as Grey supposes, that Lord Kensington would wish to decline, his seat cannot be

vacated, I conclude, without his acceptance."

Enclosure: ---

C. GREY to W. WINDHAM.

"Are you quite sure that it will not be inconvenient to Lord Kensington to vacate his seat? The patent must be filled up to-morrow (as any delay would be productive of great evils) and after it has passed the Great Seal, his writ must be moved for. Pray let me have an answer to this before to-morrow at 10 o'clock, as I must send the names in at that hour."

LORD GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, February 7. [Downing St.]—"You have quite misunderstood me if you suppose I had any conversation with the Duke of York about the exchange of commanders here and in Scotland. His Royal Highness mentioned the command in Scotland as an object of immediate attention, it being manifest that Lord M[oira] as Major-General of the Ordnance and a Cabinet Minister could not return there; and he threw out the idea of Dundas's going there, to which I made no answer, not knowing the opinion of others on the subject, nor how far this arrangement was wished by themselves.

"I think you have given to Grey the only answer that the case admits of. Certainly Lord Kensington cannot vacate his seat but by his own acceptance of the office." Copy.

THOMAS GRENVILLE to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 7. Charles Street.—"You do not know or feel the sentiments of our friends upon the unbounded admission of Addington and his followers. I have this moment a note from Morpeth with a question as to its being possible that he should be destined to have *Hiley* for his colleague, and I am obliged to tell him that you have given him Sullivan likewise. I suspect that with these colleagues he very possibly will not accept. To soften this ungracious news to him, I have suggested that perhaps he and Courtenay might change, which would bring Morpeth to your Treasury; but whether he will pursue this notion or resist the offer altogether I cannot yet say. I have written to advise him to send immediately to Lord Spencer, to tell him—what is true—that he is confined to-day by a cold, and cannot go out to be sworn.

"What can have made Fox and you so regardless of your friends' feelings and wishes upon the subject of Addington?"

EARL SPENCER to THE SAME.

1806, February 8. Whitehall.—"I have seen Lord Morpeth, who expresses himself much obliged by the proposal made to him of removing to the Treasury; but says that, as he has kissed hands for the other Board, and his appointment has been public, he thinks he had better not change it, and therefore chooses to remain where he is. I have therefore ventured to give directions for the Treasury commission to stand as follows:—Lord Grenville, Lord H. Petty, Lord Althorp, Right Honourable W. Wickham, J. Courtenay, Esq.; and for the Admiralty commission as follows:—Mr. Grey, Sir P. Stephens, Admiral Markham, Sir Charles Pole, Sir Harry Neale, Lord Ossulston, Lord Kensington. Am I right? One line in answer will enable me to sign the alteration in the warrants, which I understand to be necessary.

"I shall be at home from 5 o'clock for the whole evening."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, February 8. Charles Street.—" Mr. Whitbread has just ealled upon me to say that, not being acquainted with you, he desires me to become the channel of his application to you in favour of Lord Monson's brother to succeed to the Deanery of Lincoln, which is every hour expected to become vacant by the Dean's death. Monson, he says, is Rector of Bedale in Yorkshire, which was Dr. Percy's, and is a good thing to give away. Whitbread added that he had spoken to Fox and Grey who had promised to back his application to you with all their interest. I told him that I would very willingly become his messenger to you, and that without any delay; but that, of course, I knew nothing whatever of your engagements or intentions. Lord Monson is an old friend of

Mr. Fox, and the Rector of Bedale is his brother, Thomas Monson. With this communication to you I consider my commission as completed, as all that Whitbread asked of me was that, as he himself is unknown to you, I would be the bearer of his application to you.

"Mr. Fremantle called upon me in great apparent anxiety and agitation at supposing all question of him to be put by. I assured him that Lord Buckingham and you had been as desirous as possible to see such arrangements practicable as might be agreeable to him, and that I hoped it would in the end turn out to be so."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HENRY PETTY.

1806, February 8. Camelford House.—"I send this letter to your house (that you may find it on your return to town) to mention to you that it will be necessary that we should have a Treasury Board at twelve on Monday, in order to go through the formalities necessary previous to our beginning upon our business. I will also at that time present to you the new acting Auditor of the Exchequer who must be approved by you as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

"I wish also to mention to you in this way, rather than in conversation, some particulars respecting the house which Mr. Pitt occupied in Downing Street. It was granted by George the Second to Sir Robert Walpole to be annexed to his official situation when he held the two offices of First Lord of the Treasury and of Chancellor of the Exchequer. When those offices have been united, it has been usually occupied by the person holding them both; when they have been separated, sometimes the First Lord of the Treasury and sometimes the Chancellor of the Exchequer has lived there. In the last instance of the sort, the Duke of Portland lived there, and if I am not misinformed he says that he did so as thinking that the house belonged to him by virtue of his office, and not in consequence of any agreement or compromise with Lord J. Cavendish.

"The house is a bad one, and it would be no object to me to leave a very good one for it, if it were not for the great convenience of its nearness to the different public offices, with many of which it actually communicates. But this circumstance makes me rather wish to inhabit it. As however there might be some doubt in your mind on the subject I determined to take no step respecting it till I had communicated with you. If you should be impressed with any opinion that the house is more properly annexed to your office than to mine, and should wish to live there, it will be easy for us to find a common friend to ascertain the point for us; and at all events I beg you to believe that it is not one of such a nature as that I should be disposed to lay much stress upon it." Copy.

THE SAME to C. J. Fox.

1806, February 9. Camelford House.—" Before I received your note, which has but this instant reached me, I had actually sent to desire to see Long this evening. I cannot therefore well avoid mentioning the idea to him as one which some of us have entertained, and which, if he can be persuaded to it, I myself feel extremely anxious to carry into effect; though of course he will be to understand that a formal or official proposal cannot be made to him without our having previously communicated with the Duke of Bedford. I cannot conceal from you that, even if this arrangement should not succeed, I see the greatest possible difficulties in the way of the other you mention, and think many other preferable suggestions may still be found." Copy.

LORD HENRY PETTY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 9. Bolton Street.—"I have just found your note upon my return to town, and shall not fail to attend you at the Treasury to-morrow. I had been led, though certainly upon very loose information, to suppose that the house in Downing Street was connected with the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer; but, from the circumstances to which you allude, the contrary appears to be the case. I should be happy at all events to accommodate you, but it may perhaps be satisfactory with a view to any future arrangements to ascertain if possible distinctly to which of the two offices the house is attached."

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to THE SAME.

1806, February 10, Buckingham House.—"I have had the fullest discussion with Sir W. Young on the subject of his resignation of St. Mawes, to which he has lent himself with every desire to quit his scat without any compensation, save the prospect of a government in the West Indies; but it is absolutely unsafe for him to quit Parliament for a moment, except in such circumstances as should induce his merchant to take up all the engagements which Addington's prosecution of him two years ago subjected him to, for the purpose of getting rid of the extent issued against him. Under these circumstances I am sure you would not wish me to risk his situation; and consequently I see no means of bringing in John King, unless a West Indian government could be found, and nothing is now vacant. I have written to Windham to state the closing the very Irish negotiation of Captain Blackwood, and to beg him to think of Sir William on a vacancy, in which case, whenever it happens, you shall have St. Mawes.

"I could not bring my mind yesterday to mis-spend the very few moments that we now have to pass together, by urging you on a matter in which I plainly saw that you had great difficulties, I mean the appointment of Fremantle versus

Harrison; but every moment satisfies me that it will be absolutely impossible for you to avail yourself of the situation in which you are placed, unless you have in the offices immediately connected with you, persons who not only have your confidence, but who are known to enjoy it. I would write more on that subject if your letter—from which I spoke to Calcraft—did not contain volumes on this chapter; and when the principles of that letter are applied to Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Harrison, strangers to you, though intimately connected with each other, and to Mr. King, who is universally reported, upon his own declarations, to have taken the situation only for a time, how is it possible that you should derive from such an arragement the fair assistance you ought to have, in any of the many confidential matters that must pass through the official hands of your secretaries. Sure I am that such an experiment was never made; and if I am to judge from my father's papers now in my hands, I am confident that his government could not have gone on a week under such an arrangement. Indeed your own letter to me on that chapter is unanswerable; and the more so, because even since you wrote it, the reasons and necessity of increased precaution are considerably increased, both in public estimation, and in the real state of the case, or of the situation in which you stand.

"Judge how this difficulty is to be felt as with respect to your ministerial position connected with the House of Commons, where you have not one single friend or connexion in office save Wickham and Lord Temple; and figure to yourself how it will be possible for the various questions of patronage and objects of that nature to be discussed by your friends and well wishers through Vansittart and Harrison, or through a private secretary equally new to you and your friends. Look only to that chapter—not of little importance in which we mixed up the name of Mr. Dardis, and see how it is possible that those details can be discussed-necessarily without your participation—with those two public secretaries, or a private secretary new to you, or indeed with John King if he is to leave you—as he says he is—and to retire. That chapter cannot be so discussed safely; and indeed I should very much doubt whether Dardis ought or can be so employed, so long as he lives avowedly under my roof and patronage, unless he has a channel of direction of a very different description in point of confidence. I could say much more to you on this latter subject, but that I dare not write all I feel, and hate to converse with you on matters that are uneasy, when I am to see so little of you. All, therefore, I will add on that subject is, that it presses materially, that the means are slipping fast out of your hands, that Vansittart himself will be in possession of them, and that I do not see how it can be possible to keep that subject in a course that can be exclusively such as it ought to be, so long as the natural and proper channel is thus unfortunately shut.

"You will think upon reading this long letter that my friendship for Fremantle and my wish to see him in Harrison's situation makes me press this matter upon you. I will not deny that wish, or my friendship for him; but I do seriously claim from you credit for sentiments of a different sort, and solely personal to you, that guide my pen in this matter. It has hung very heavy on my mind. I may safely say that I have been so much impressed with the danger of your situation arising out of the insulated position in which you find yourself, that I have not closed my eyes last night. I had intended to have urged Tom to press this consideration upon you, but as I had no opportunity of seeing him after we parted, I have ventured to trust to my own pen to express my uneasiness, and my anxious wish. At all events, think of me always as more alive to your ease, character, and happiness, than to my own."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to LORD GRENVILLE.

February 10, Charles Street.—"I am necessarily made a great channel of communications to you, which, as they must be made, perhaps pass with no great inconvenience through me. Lord Dorchester has desired me to apply to you from him in favour of his near relation and heir Lord Portarlington, who is a candidate, when a vacancy shall arise, for an elective seat in the House of Lords. This had been promised, as I am told, by Pitt; but the request now comes to you on the part of Lord Dorchester who takes great interest in his relation's affairs. Lord Portarlington has a borough, and his brother-in-law, Parnell, is probably by this time member for Queen's county.

"Lord Dorchester desires me to add that he would have come to you to ask this, but that he cannot get out of a carriage. His great wish seems to be to have as distinct an answer as possible, by which I understand that he is anxious to know whether you are engaged for the first, and that he may expect the second; or whether he may depend upon a third, if you

should be unable to give him an earlier expectation.

"For Lord Portarlington's brother, who is a young man of sixteen, he wishes if possible to place him in a train of business, even without income; and Lord Macartney, who is likewise related to Lord Portarlington, has suggested to him to ask to be named an extra clerk of the Treasury, of which Lord Macartney says there are some, and for which he is anxious to apply although he conceives there is little or no salary. I stated a doubt about an extra clerk with honourable before his name, but he quotes Lord Macartney for saying that it is no derogation.

"Of these requests, particularly the first, I can say more when I see you; but I presume you will talk it over with Elliot before you give your answer. Does Long accept? I hope you will say yes."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 10. Butler's Court.—"I send over with this a letter which, by an easy mistake, has been brought hither instead of to Dropmore, and which I luckily perceived, before I opened it, to be intended not for me, but Mr. Wickham. Will you have the goodness to take charge of it?

"The account stated in some of the papers of a treaty, offensive and defensive, in which Prussia was concerned, does not seem to be confirmed; so one remains in the same doubtful or rather fearful uncertainty as before, notwith-

standing the note of Baron Hardenburg.

"If Prussia could be induced to interpose now, when her interposition would be nothing less then rescuing Austria from destruction, it would certainly give her a fine claim to the gratitude of that Court, and might lay the foundation of a future good understanding, if the two Courts and countries are capable of being governed by such motives. The certainty that, if Bonaparte crushes Austria, Prussia lies at his mercy, and at a moment too when he may not be most inclined to spare her, and the hopes, on the other hand, of what so signal a service rendered to Austria at her moment of need may do in attaching that power, ought to produce something; but whether it will or no is a point on which I do not allow myself to be sanguine, though rather inclined to be.

"If Prussia were to act, and my wishes could direct her counsels, and those of the allies, I should certainly enquire at least about the possibility of realizing Lord Hawkesbury's march to Paris, and proclaiming Louis XVIII. Though I am afraid, speaking without a map, that the distance, as well as other obstructions that may lie in the way, are rather adverse; but I must still think that this is the right course in point of principle. In failure, however, I will be content with her

cutting off Bonaparte's armies."

EARL SPENCER to THE SAME.

1806, February [10]. Whitehall.—"I return you, by Elliott's desire, the private letter from Lord Redesdale to Wickham, which, though I had it in my pocket when we met at Fox's, as I had not read it, I was afraid of producing; and if I had read it I should not have thought it fit to produce. The contents of it confirm me in the opinion of the expediency of C. Long's being the properest man for Chancellor of the Exchequer, and if you cannot prevail on him to accept it, of any body almost rather than Tierney. I suppose Wickham's health would be an objection to him, and there may perhaps be some other objections besides, of which I am not aware."

Enclosure:-

LORD REDESDALE to WILLIAM WICKHAM.

1806, January 30. Ely Place, Dublin.—"I was happy to learn, by a letter written in a very different style from that of some which I have received from you, that your spirits were recovered, and your health improving. I take the first to have been a consequence, and a proof, of the last. I have had a severe fit of the gout, which disabled me from sitting during the greatest part of the last term, and till the first day of this term. I am now tolerably recovered, but not equal to a load of business, and unfortunately that of my Court is sufficiently heavy, without much more which falls upon me. There is no department which comes in any degree within my view, whether in my own court, in the several establishments of which I am officially a trustee in the other courts, or in the several departments of government, that I do not find a neglect of duty, a confusion of characters, a want of any proper check or control, a disposition to do nothing, and an obstinate resistance to any attempt at reform, which must, in the end, so clog the wheels of government that the machine will scarcely move, or move with an irregularity utterly inconsistent with good government. Those who contrived the Union seem to have thought only of carrying that measure, without considering how the machine was to work afterwards. Indeed they seem to have fancied that such would be the wonderful effect of the Union, that, after its accomplishment, the machine of government in Ireland would move of itself. They supposed many offices essential to the government would be quite superfluous; they gave the holders pensions for life equivalent to their offices, and then considered the offices as abolished. The consequence is that, in many parts, the machine cannot work at all; for the wheels which ought to have caused the motions are gone, and nothing has been substituted. Nothing too has been done to adapt the remaining machinery to the change of circumstances; everybody has been left to go on as he would, and during the Secretaryships of Sir E. Napean and Mr. Vansittart, this relaxation has produced such a system of idleness and obstinacy, that poor Long left us almost in despair. Should your friends come into power, perhaps you may return here; but if not, for the sake of the country, let them feel this miserable state of things. Abbot had planned a great deal. You proposed to have taken up the business where he left it, and I believe had planned much, when the unfortunate 23rd of July threw us into confusion; and we are, as that event left us, with this additional misfortune, that the Government here has become weaker, and the opposition to it more powerful. The Chancellor of the Exchequer and Commissioners of Revenue seem to have been striving by what means they should continue to lessen the revenue, whilst enormous taxes were imposed. If you should come here, or if any other person should come here, on a change of Govern-

ment, as Secretary, in my opinion that person ought also to be Chancellor of the Exchequer, or at least with the rank and title of First Lord of the Treasury, unless it should be thought fit to abolish the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, and make the Board of Treasury a board of mere men of business, and not politicians. I am also convinced that there ought to be a second Sceretary, an Englishman, who should come to Ireland before the meeting of Parliament, receive all the Chief Secretary's plans and orders for conducting the government during his absence, wait his return, report all circumstances, and then return to England to carry to Ministers the Chief Secretary's plans and views, and to execute his orders in England; and then to return again to Ireland, just before the Chief Secretary leaves it as before. This country will not be well governed until governed by English minds. An Irish Under-Sccretary, acting half the year as Chief Secretary, must thwart every plan of a Chief Secretary for that purpose. It is too dark for me to write more."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 10. Palace Yard.—"The enclosed was clearly meant to meet your eye; do not take the trouble to return it. I will acknowledge it on your part. (No, the proxy arrangements are not yet material, but should soon be adverted to.)

"I understand that the new Government has already generated a new Opposition; and the rising family seems likely to be numerous. One of the first attacks (en attendant mieux) is to be on the admission of Lord Ellenburgh into the Cabinet, which is pretended to be unconstitutional, and injurious to the independence of his judicial character. If there be any sense in that objection as applying to an independent officer, it would apply still stronger to the Chancellor. But the whole is founded in ignorance of the meaning of a "Cabinet," which is only an occasional Committee of the Privy Council, to which Privy Council all Chief Justices have belonged. We are to be told that Judge Jefferies is the only instance of a Cabinet Judge; I believe however (but I am not sure) that Lord Mansfield was during two or three years in the Cabinet with the Duke of Newcastle. It may sometimes be matter of delicacy for a judge to remain at the Council Board in the discussion of intended prosecutions; but Eyre did not feel that delicacy, and acted at the Old Bailey in a contrary sense to his own at the Cockpit.

"The additional papers relative to the Continental wreck are more observable for what they omit than for what they contain. The whole object seems to have been to secure a numerical equality of force; 500,000 men to be opposed to 500,000, without regard to country, locality, discipline, or commanders; and that object was pursued with an apparent want (so far as we are yet informed) of preponderance, system,

and foresight in our Foreign Office and in the War Depart-There is not a single despatch or instruction from the British Government. Our whole energy consisted in a readiness to furnish six or eight millions sterling; and in the prompt remittance of a part of that sum. (Query, what part? Query also, what further part we are still bound to pay?) There is not in the papers any trace of British influence in the arrangement and direction of the proposed force; nor is there any allusion to plans and modes of British co-operation. No explanation is given of the predicament in which we stood with respect to Prussia, nor of the reasons for sending our first detachment to Germany after the Ulm capitulation, and the second detachment after the news had been received of the Austerlitz catastrophe. The date and nature of the instructions which sent Craig's force to Naples do not appear. Now without any disposition to bear heavily on individuals, I conceive it to be a public duty (especially involving the character and security of the new Government) to bring to public exposure the insufficiency of those, to whose precipitancy and want of foresight we may fairly attribute the fatal waste and loss of means, which, if well applied, might have been adequate to the recovery of Europe.

"It might be useful towards forming a first general idea of our *primum mobile*, the finance, if Mr. Vansittart would

be so good as to furnish.

1. The respective amounts of last year's revenue and expenditure; under the several heads; stating also the loans.

2. An estimate of outstanding demands, and of the arrears

of revenue, and other sums, applicable to their discharge.

3. A statement of the several branches of expenditure in the last year, with their respective amounts; and, in a separate column, an estimate of such increase as may become necessary or of such diminution as may be attainable in the said several branches.

Enclosure:—

LORD GWYDIR to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, February 6. Sidmouth.—I congratulate you on the Administration being settled: but I cannot express the pleasure I feel at your having again entered on public life in a manner so much to your own satisfaction, and with such a

promise of great and lasting advantages to the country.

"Whilst Mr. Pitt lived, a blessing to mankind and an ornament to the civilized world, I was most sincerely attached to him from profound admiration of his public conduct, and from every feeling of private gratitude. His loss will be long and severely felt. The country is fortunate indeed in still having so able a statesman as Lord Grenville, whose arrangements, as they comprise almost all the great abilities of the

nation, will, I trust, be found equal to the tremendous task of supporting the dignity, and ensuring the prosperity of the British empire."

THOMAS GRENVILLE tO LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 11. Charles Street.—"I called upon you this morning to tell you that, from the increasing solicitude which I see to keep Lord C[harles] S[pencer] in the Post Office, I think you will have farther solicitation upon that subject. But as Lord Carysfort has a decided preference for the Post Office, which I believe is well founded, I should advise you to announce your decision to-night by a note to Lord Charles Spencer in Mayfair, and order the commissions from the Treasury to be made out, so that they may both kiss hands

"Have you thought, in what Lord S[pencer] tells me are your new hopes of Long, to suggest his having some Irish member at the Board in Ireland who is agreeable to him? Elliot thinks, in case of this disappointment, there are still good hopes of York or Steel; the first would mark the Pitt standard more than the last."

"Postscript.—I have told Lord Dorchester that you will give him an answer respecting Lord Portarlington as soon as you know enough of the Irish arrangements and engage-

ments to enable you to do so.

"I am solicited by Lord R. Spencer and Mrs. Bouverie to name a son of Bouverie's to you for assistance in the church. If Fox names it to you, be so good as to say that you had made a memorandum of it from my having mentioned it to you. Nothing presses upon it, as I will tell you, beyond that answer for the present."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, February 11.—" The state of Sir G. Shee's appointment is that, when he received it originally from Lord Cornwallis, it was 6,000l. a year; that, in a vindictive kind of reform which it underwent afterwards from Forster, it was reduced to 1,000l. without deductions; but this being thought too low with reference to the responsibility of the place and the security necessary to be given, it was settled in Nepean's time, and with the concurrence afterwards of other Secretaries, that it should be raised to 1,500l.; some persons being of opinion that even that was too low.

"According to this statement, compared with that of J. King, the income of the places would be merely upon a level. There would then be the necessity of residing for a short portion of each or most years in Ireland, which to Sir W[illiam] B[ellingham] would not be much, as he has land which he keeps in his own hands in that country; and, on the other hand, the advantage of entering into the profits of the appointment

immediately.

"Should there be nothing more therefore than when he appears, I dont see why the exchange should not be made. Why might not the exchange be made with the agreement of a re-exchange when Sir George's appointment as Under-Secretary should be at an end?"

Confidential. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, February 11. Palace Yard.—"I wish to submit to you quite in confidence a small point of some delicacy. Lord Chichester apprizes me that Lord Sheffield means to apply to you to place him in the Privy Council, and afterwards at the Board of Trade. His motives for this request are very flattering to me; and in truth, before he knew of Lord Temple's appointment, he wrote to desire to serve under me. But though he is friendly, honourable, well informed, and sedulous, you know well that those qualities alone are not sufficient to facilitate the business of a Board which is in danger of being overwhelmed by the variety of applications crowding into it. That business can only be kept down and efficiently discharged by quiet consideration and enquiry such as to authorize prompt decisions, without being exposed to eternal discussions about the navigation laws, and long reasonings (and "réchauffés") from pamphlets. I really do not know how this attack can be averted except by a very civil pause, before you will propose to multiply further the Privy Council list, which has not yet been done except for Privy Council offices.

"At the House yesterday, the Prince of Wales and Lord Holland expressed to me a strong desire that the latter should move to restore the standing order which was struck out last year on the motion of Lord Mulgrave. It is not desirable in any case to exhibit the spectacle of opposite votes in opposite administrations: but I really doubt whether the order in question, as heretofore worded, ought to be revised. It might be wished to have the means of putting the House into a committee on great questions which, in their ordinary progress, would not have the benefit of a committee. But the wording of such an order is not easy. Lord Holland said that he would do nothing in it yet, and would previously submit the subject

to you."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, February 12. Charles Street.—"I am anxious to prevent any possible misunderstanding respecting Lord Morpeth's situation at the India Board. A great object with him and with Lord Carlisle was found in his taking that situation at present, because by Lord Minto's absence in the House of Lords, the moving the India Budget, and the lead in the business of the House of Commons seemed open to him, especially as Lord R. Spencer was then the other commissioner,

When H. Addington was named, Morpeth told me that Hilev had very handsomely offered to him to do either more or less of that business, or to follow Lord Morpeth in it, as Lord Morpeth might prefer; to which Lord Morpeth answered by thanking him for his civility, but did not think it right to accept or decline the lead without having first talked with He saw Lord Minto yesterday for that purpose, and was surprised to find that, on the day before, Hiley had come to Lord Minto, had told Lord Minto he was to have the lead, and asked for the material papers, which he has taken down with him to Harwich. Lord Minto declines deciding upon this point, which he means to refer to you. I should be very sorry if this point was not carried for Lord Morpeth, because it was a great inducement to him first to accept it; and it would be a harsh and ungracious thing to him to follow Hiley, after Hiley himself had offered him the lead. Pray support him on this subject which is not a trifling one, as the desire of distinguishing himself in the India business has been very flattering both to him and to his father.

"Lord Minto tells Morpeth that he is afraid there will be a great division in Government about Paul's papers in the

House."

Pall Mall, February 12, 8 p.m.—" I should hesitate in urging you to press to the utmost the preference to which my letter alluded, if I did not myself feel persuaded that the leading situation of that Board in the House, should for every reason be in hands such as those of which there is now question, rather than such as seem prepared to claim the lead. When I say this I say what presses most upon me in the urgency of the pending question, during which it cannot be desirable that in the House of Commons you should have to look to what is now composing for you in hostile hands.

"I feel with you the weight of the task which is in question; and the extent of the labour and responsibility is more than I can venture to pledge myself for in other hands; but there is at present an active disposition towards it, which, at present, I think, at all events must be encouraged and assisted by you

to the utmost."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 13. [Pall Mall.]—"Since our conversation yesterday at the Queen's House I have been thinking again of the case of Hippisley, and I really feel more and more upon every new reflection that it is not only a matter which ought to be done, but that it would be done infinitely more easily now than at any future period.

"It stands now upon the simplest of all grounds, namely, as an appointment given to a friend of minc whom I have known for six and twenty years, whom I helped to bring into Parliament, who has attached himself to me during the whole

time that I have been in Parliament, who has great capacities of making himself useful, and has on various occasions been very useful; to which might be added, who is not without means of making himself prejudicial, if not to me personally, yet to a Ministry in these times; and who, with a most considerable establishment in point of fortune and connection in the country, is, I will venture to say, eminently qualified to be of service in the situation which he solicits. If he had the good judgment to put himself upon his real pretensions on all occasions, and had not made himself sometimes little by an over-solicitude to make himself great, there could not have been two opinions about him as one of the most fit men for the situation in question that could be found. As it is, no just exception could be taken to the appointment on any score either as to qualification, temper, stake in the country, or in any other respect; and, I think, as far as relates to me, you will not feel that I am at all unreasonable when I press it with the earnestness that I do; but, on the contrary, have been remiss towards those who have claims upon me (and which I assure you have not been renewed since I saw you) in having urged it hitherto so feebly as I have done.

"There is another point on which I think you might, consistent with feelings which naturally, however, are of a sort which you would not like to put any force upon, afford me a I mean this arrangement between Sir W. Bellingham and Sir George Shee. The additional salary to Sir George Shee is a matter which the Irish Government seems to have decided upon, and to stand pledged to. It was signified in form to Sir G. Shee by Sir Evan Nepean, at the same time that a larger increase was settled to be made to another place, somewhat similarly situated, and held by a Mr. Neville. A clause for the purpose was to have been introduced into a Bill last year, and is understood only to have been omitted (if the Bill itself was in fact brought forward) from the uncertain state in which the Irish business remained from the doubt about Forster's appointment.

"If this is so, the two places are of equal value, with the difference that Sir W. Bellingham will, in the one case, enter into immediate possession; while, in the other, he must wait for a death, though the death of a man of 80. I leave it to you; but would it be too much, considering how much Sir William Bellingham owes to you for being willing to take upon you the discharge of his legacy at all, not left, by the way, by Mr. Pitt himself, to require of Sir William to make so small a sacrifice, if it is a sacrifice at all, for the sake of so very great a convenience as that of accommodating me with Sir George Shee; who, so far from being intent negociating for his own interest, is willing to connect himself with me at greater sacrifices than I can allow him to

make."

THE EARL OF CHATHAM tO LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 15. Dover Street.—"Finding that the last sad ceremony is fixed for the 22nd instant, and having been called upon for a list of such relations of the family as may propose attending this melancholy duty, I am anxious to learn whether you intend assisting as such, or whether it would be more satisfactory for you to have any particular station reserved for you on this painful occasion.

"Though very unwilling to break in upon your time, I cannot resist taking this opportunity of assuring you how sensible I am of the kind intentions you have expressed, through Mr. King, on the subject of Sir William Bellingham. He is a very old and dear friend of mine, and very long attached to my poor brother, who had it much at heart to make some permanent provision for him, and which he had promised him to do on the first occasion. This latter circumstance, however, I mention only as my apology for having, at so early a period and one of so much affliction to myself, intruded upon you, and not as in any degree lessening the extent of the personal and sincere obligation I feel for your kindness on this occasion."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, February 15. Arlington Street.—"Mr. Sheridan, who will deliver this, will speak to you on the subject of his son, and wishes me to state to you how much I feel interested in his behalf. It is most true that I am anxious for his welfare independent of my friendship for his father; that I know him to be an excellent young man, and in a very difficult situation, not so much owing to his own imprudence, as to his not having been advised earlier to enter into a profession."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, 16 February. Arlington Street.—"I have not been able to go to Holland House to-day, but have shut myself up and deny myself to every body in order to get a little rest. A very extraordinary circumstance however has occurred which I am very desirous of communicating to you, and to have your advice whether I should act in it on my own responsibility or submit it to the Cabinet. If you can therefore call here for a quarter of an hour at any time that suits you best you will much oblige me.

"I hope you have had no return of your dizziness nor any

bad effects from it."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, February 16. [Pall Mall.]—"I will not regret that the thought of William Herbert had not before occurred, because, at all events, the results must have been the same; the choice that had been made in one instance, and must be made in another, being determined by circumstances which could not have been set aside. Sir George Shea has actually accepted in Cooke's room, and Crauford must be the person chosen in the arrangement which I shall have to propose to you for the removal of Mr. Penn, however worthy a man, and the appointment of a second Under-Secretary, in conformity to the establishment of the other offices. There were undoubtedly other persons that I had had in view, some recommended by eonsiderations of one sort, and others by those of another; but few could have united more than are to be found in Mr. Herbert, who, to his other recommendations, has that of being brother-in-law to a favourite niece of Mrs. Windham's.

"The state of the business of the Office seems, by universal confession, to require the addition of another Under-Secretary; and, as well on the score of fitness, as on the score of claims not otherwise to be made good, Cranfurd must be the man. only obstruction, or rather drawback, is Mr. Penn. He has been very dexterously placed in a situation too low, it was hoped, for removal, yet really too high for continuance. He has been made to stand in the way of a second Under-Secretary which the state of the office required, and yet to keep the name of a clerk, so as to deprive the person coming to the head of the Office, if this contrivance were yielded to, of his right of nomination. The only question is whether Mr. Penn can be allowed a part of his salary on retiring, or can be provided for in any other manner, particularly by Lord Buckinghamshire by whom he was originally introduced into the Office; or whether he must withdraw like other persons in political changes; for it would be too unfair to throw upon me the charge of appointing a superfluous officer in the person of a second Under-Secretary, when the real supernumcrary was the person introduced as above by one of my predecessors.

"I shall write to Lord Carnarvon, from whom I have received a letter, expressing my regret at not being able to comply with his wishes, and the part you had taken in support of

them."

THOMAS GRENVILLE tO THE SAME.

1806, February 17. Charles Street.—"Francis has very earnestly requested me to beg of you to fix any time that you please for him to say a few words to you, which he assures you will not occupy you a quarter of an hour, and which he says he is confident will be agreeable to you to hear. I have undertaken this message; you will probably think it necessary to see him, and, if so, be so good as to send to him to fix a time. Sheridan has just come down to the House, and has persuaded Fox to beg Elliot not to move Newport's writ till Fox sees the Prince. This is a new intrigue of Sheridan's to make the Prince's name a bar to Newport, and an introduction to Tierney. Newport has actually sent to Waterford, and is so much announced that you cannot recede without

disgrace. I hope Fox will only see the Prince to tell him that Newport is irrevocably appointed. I have desired Elliot to see the Duke of B[cdford] before your dinner."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 17. [Pall Mall.]—"I should have told you to-day that the Prince of Walcs had sent for me and urged much, as a matter in which he had a strong wish, that you should have a conversation with Francis. My commission ends in stating to you this wish or opinion on the part of his

Royal Highness.

But I certainly do think that, if you could have reconciled yourself to the measure of sending Francis to India, it would not only have been the best thing for India, but the most effectual means of getting rid of all difficulties on a subject which is hardly a matter of less apprehension and anxiety to me than it is to you. The supposed or known opposition of Francis's opinions to Lord Wellesley's is not more than was that of Lord Cornwallis's; yet Lord Cornwallis was sent out by those who did not consider themselves as having declared war against Lord Wellesley. Francis, it is plain, would be happy to compromise on the condition of not making his administration in India assume a character more hostile to Lord Wellesley than could possibly be avoided. On the other hand must be considered the consequences of leaving an enemy behind who, to the motives of passion, will add the plea of duty for doing whatever is most adverse as well as most embarrassing.

"If Lord Wellesley's is a good cause, which I am far from meaning to deny, all this may be set at nought; but if it is not, which I will confess to you I fear, the consequences will be most distressing, though I hope not fatal. I merely acquit myself of my commission in stating to you what was

the object of the Prince's summons to me.

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, February 18. Camelford House.—"Lord Grenville has the honour to transmit for your Majesty's signature two copies of a message from your Majesty to Parliament, for the purpose of rectifying a mistake in the Act granting an annuity to the Earl of St. Vincent, the particulars of which Lord Grenville will have the honour to explain to your Majesty to-morrow." Copy.

THOMAS GRENVILLE tO LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 18. Charles Street.—"If you had disposable time, which I know you have not, I would have said a few words to you about the two enclosed papers, and the subjects connected with them, but particularly the latter.

"Lord Reay is a county connexion of Lord Stafford, who swears allegiance to him, and who, being heir to above 10,000l. per annum, is a candidate for the elective peerage of Scotland. I have told Lord Stafford that your answer would probably be, that without making any engagement, Lord Reay's pretensions would be fairly considered by you according to their own weight and Lord Stafford's protection of them, whenever there was a fit occasion. This answer will perfectly satisfy Lord Stafford, if it seems to you right to make it.

"The other paper is a letter from William Dundas to me, which is a good deal more extensive in its views and considerations, and demands more time and remark than belongs to a note of this sort. It appears to me that the satisfaction which this party expresses in the management of Scotland resting with Lord Spencer and you is well worth encouraging; at the same time there is an evident tendency in it to stipulate for a more unlimited continuance of the old influence, that is of the Melville influence, than can be convenient to any government from whom such a party professes to entertain distinct opinions, and possibly a different line of conduct, as these persons evidently do. It has occurred to me that this subject might advantageously furnish a ground for a letter from you to Lord Stafford, which might be usefully communicated confidentially to William Dundas. Do you wish to talk upon this, or to write upon it, or neither?

"I have seen Elliot and Lord Spencer, and have told them that I suspect they will be pressed upon a successor to Marsden, just as they have been upon Newport; and I have urged them to be prepared with some candidate of their own, rather than to receive any that is preparing for them in Sheridan's

shop."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, February 18. Camelford House.—"I certainly shall be very glad to converse with Francis, and I will send to him to fix a time for that purpose. But the ideas which are in contemplation for India, and which I will mention to you in confidence when we meet, seem to make it likely that the appointment of Francis to that station will not be urged even

by his warmest friends.

"The matter of the army estimates presses extremely, as that alone delays our finance measures. In this state I would propose that we should vote the army on its present footing, reserving to ourselves the benefit of such reductions of expense as we can make in the course of the year, were it not that the present establishment includes the cavalry on its present footing, which we shall probably think it right to diminish, and the skeleton battalions which (being a source of nothing but expense and patronage) we shall undoubtedly reduce; and also the internal staff of the country, which is in many cases ridiculous as well as useless; and that it does

not seem very decorous to propose to Parliament to vote for a year that which we must, at the same time, declare we cannot consent to suffer to continue for another month.

"If you were sufficiently advanced to give me two or three hours for going over these things with you, we might soon bring them to such a point as would enable us to let the estimates go forward; and I would, for this purpose, keep a whole morning open from all other business, whenever you would fix it."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 18. Palace Yard.—"The foreign colonies being in Mr. Foxe's department, I have thought it right to send copies of the enclosed papers to him, and to inform him that I have adjourned the final adoption of the minute to Friday next at 12 o'clock, that he may attend if he should have any doubt respecting it. After a full enquiry I am satisfied that the proposed line is highly expedient, and I am glad to hear that similar applications to a considerable extent are coming forwards. An exchange of British manufactures for dying woods, cochineal, and dollars, is so peculiarly expedient in our actual circumstances, that I certainly would not have troubled you with one word on the subject, if the late practice within the Office had not implied a different opinion. If you wish for any further particulars have the goodness to speak to Mr. Fawkener who is fully apprized of the business, and will attend the Council at the Queen's House to-morrow. I take the occasion to observe that much of the business of those Councils will, from time to time, originate from the Board of Trade, and may occasionally require explanations; but in the hope that I may have other means of seeing you when necessary, I am glad not to be summoned to those Councils.

"From what I learnt yesterday respecting the Irish arrangements, I trust that there is a tendency towards a gradual consolidation of the two Treasuries."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, February 18.—"I have no hesitation in expressing my decided opinion in favour of these applications. I believe the ground of objection rested a good deal on the state of our discussions with America. You will have observed the stress which Jefferson lays on the supposed unreasonableness of our claim to deprive other nations of a trade which we carry on ourselves. But this is a sophism. We have a right to prevent that which is injurious to us, and may, if we think right, in cases where we think the advantage to ourselves compensates or overbalances the injury; a principle manifest in the case of a siege, where we exclude all the world from

intercourse with the town besieged, but carry it on ourselves, whenever we think it beneficial to our own interests to do so.

"As a commercial question the thing admits of no doubt, nor can I think that the question of navigation is to be attended to against so many other more important considerations.

"The Treasury arrangements for Ireland are directed towards the principle you mention, but I should like to find (some day next week) a quarter of an hour to talk to you about the means of obtaining it." Copy.

R. B. SHERIDAN to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 18.—"I wish to have the honour of waiting on your Lordship to-morrow between two and four, wherever you shall appoint. It is with great satisfaction that I have it in my power to assure you that the business respecting Sir John Newport's appointment was terminated at Carlton House in a manner that I think must be pleasing to you. You will probably have received an account of it from Mr. Grattan, or Mr. G. Ponsonby; but, in the humble and sincere hope that these differences, so vitally mischievous in their report, may at once and finally be put an end to, I feel that I am serving the general cause in requiring a short, frank, conversation with your Lordship.

"I am ashamed to have forgot when I saw you to have said that your recommendation respecting Mr. Ottey shall be attended to by me with the most respectful consideration."

LORD ERSKINE to THE SAME.

1806, February 19. Lincoln's Inn Fields.—"Under the auspices of the directions I received from your Lordship at St. James', I found no difficulty in opening the box, and I will give the earliest attention to the enclosed papers; but I anticipate that I cannot differ from your Lordship in the matters contained in the letter you did me the honour to send with them, because I always considered the number of the judges one of the principal defects of the Court of Session."

LORD HENRY PETTY to THE SAME.

1806, February 19. Bolton Street.—"I am induced to trouble you with a few lines, having understood to-day that no final arrangement was made with regard to the houses in Downing Street. Should there be no essential obstacle to it, the great inconvenience of my present situation, and that arising from my having no Office, and not being able to find a tolerable house in the neighbourhood of the Treasury would make it a great object to me to get Sir C. Morgan's; and, if the rent was thought any object to the public, I should be glad to give whatever might be thought proper. Mr. Bond, I understand, who is to be provided with a house, is disposed

to take Lord Elliot's. If, as I think I understood, you were desirous of taking a room out of Sir C. Morgan's, the house is large enough, I imagine, to leave me sufficient space without it.

"I shall be glad to have some conversation with you when you are at leisure respecting a debt of three millions which I find is due to the Bank this year, and which, I am afraid, we omitted to take into consideration. I should flatter myself that, if an Act of Parliament is passed to secure all the public balances being placed with them, that this circumstance together with the other advantages they enjoy, may induce them to continue the loan at a very low rate of interest; and I probably should take an early opportunity of seeing the Governor for the purpose of settling it."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HENRY PETTY.

1806, February 20. Camelford House.—"I am sure I need not say that I shall be truly desirous of consulting your convenience as one of the first objects in making any arrangement respecting the houses in Downing Street, but I am, as yet, quite ignorant of the best mode of doing so, Sir Charles Morgan being still in the house which he has occupied, and his state of health having been assigned the other day as a reason to prevent my seeing it when I wished to do so, for the very purpose of settling these arrangements.

"It was, I believe, already understood that Mr. Bond was to receive an allowance in lieu of a house, and that the houses in Downing Street, as fast as they could be procured, were to be appropriated to the use of the Treasury and Secretary of State's Offices, so as to bring the principal departments

of Government contiguous to each other.

"With this view the plan was to allot to the Treasury the upper part of the building we now occupy, and to remove the Home Department to Sir Charles Morgan's and Lord Elliot's houses, from the latter of which (Lord Elliot's) it seems necessary that I should take one room and add it to the house I am to occupy, which has now no dining room; Mr. Pitt having thrown what was the dining room into the study.

"In consequence of what you have mentioned, I will, as soon as Sir Charles Morgan's house can be seen, send to the acting person in the Board of Works and direct him to lay before me a plan for appropriating these different buildings so as best to answer the different objects in question, among which I certainly consider your accommodation to be a very principal one. When this has been done, I will have the pleasure of conversing with you on the subject.

"I imagine there is no doubt of the readiness of the Bank directors to prolong their loan of three millions on advan-

tageous terms to the public, and I meant to propose to you that we should see them together as soon as we can ascertain the extent of the benefit they are likely to derive from the measures in contemplation respecting the balances. Mr. Harrison says he is already prepared with the Bill respecting the Treasurer of the Ordnance. *Copy*.

THE SAME to GEORGE III.

1806, February 20. Camelford House.—"Lord Grenville has the honour to submit for your Majesty's royal signature, if approved, a warrant for a pension to produce 150l. per annum net, to each of the four children of Mr. Hammond on his retreat from the situation of Under Secretary of State, in which he has had the honour to serve your Majesty eleven years, and, as Lord Grenville can testify, with great diligence, zeal and ability." Copy.

THE EARL OF CHATHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 21. Dover Street.—"I have this moment received your very kind letter. I know perfectly well what your sentiments and feelings are on this painful occasion, and I am extremely happy you had done full justice to mine. I can only say that whatever situation in the melancholy ceremonial will, under all circumstances, be most satisfactory to you will be entirely so to me, and I will accordingly notify to the Lord Chamberlain your wish to take your place in the procession, as one of the relations."

C. J. Fox to THE SAME.

1806, February 26. Downing Street.—" I have written to Lord Foley, but should rather apprehend that he will think

it best for his interest to take no part in the contest.

"The Scotch business, as far as relates to the Advocate and Solicitor, presses much in point of time on account of the circuit. Partly from considering these changes as matters of course, and being quite sure that all the persons whom you thought of consulting would think the same, I believe I never mentioned them to you except carelessly and in passing. In Scotland they are universally considered as done. Erskine, you know, was Advocate 23 years ago, and Clerk is unquestionably the first man at the Scotch Bar. I am pretty sure Blair will be satisfied with hopes of future attention. Now I am on the subject of Scotland I must mention the Great Seal, which I wish Lauderdale had had a fortnight since. but which I think it material he should have even now, though, if he goes to India, he will hold it but a short time, The thing has been so much talked of that the inconvenience, if in fact there be any, of removing the Duke of Gordon is incurred, and it would be easier to remove him for Lauderdale

than for another person. If Lauderdale goes to India, I believe the Prince will, and I am sure he *ought* to apply for it for Lord Lothian, to whom also I should be glad to shew any mark of esteem or attention.

"I cannot yet collect my scattered papers concerning baronets. I think with you that Davison should not be among them, and the public conviction affords a reason with which Lord Moira must be satisfied; but I have several applications from very proper people which I will let you have in a day or two.

"Mr. Douglas, of the Hackney Coach Office, who was formerly much protected both by my father and mother, has applied to me to be a Commissioner of the Lottery, a place which has been held with the other. He says a Commissioner of the Lottery is just dead; if you can appoint him

to it you will much oblige me.

"Now for matters of more importance. I conclude you have read the paper Grey put into circulation relative to our offer of a cartel. I think it ought to be considered without loss of time, and the French allegations relative to the Hanoverians, and to the French troops from St. Domingo should be either admitted or confuted. If any possible means could be devised to make some exchange, and to get home (under whatever pretext) the English now in France, it would be a most popular, and, in truth, a most humane measure. Besides, the appearance of something more of civility between the two countries would have an excellent effect in every part of Europe. By Lord G. Levison's last despatches it appears the Russians permit the French Consul to remain at Petersburgh, adhering as they say to the treaty on that point, notwithstanding the unjustifiable conduct of the French to their people."

LORD ELLENBOROUGH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 26. Bloomsbury Square.—"I take the liberty of troubling you with a reference to some instances since the Revolution, in which Parliament has thought proper to confer situations of high political trust upon persons filling

the office which I unworthily hold at present.

"By statute 6 Anne, chapter 7, section 9, by which a Regency was appointed, in order to provide against the event of the Queen's dying at a time when the next Protestant successor might be out of the realm, the persons who should on the demise of her Majesty be in possession of the following offices, namely that of Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Chancellor or Keeper, Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Lord High Admiral, and the Lord Chief Justice of the Queen's Bench for the time being, were constituted and appointed Lords Justices of Great Britain (vid. also Rapin, vol. 13, B. 30,

pt. 2, c. 1), and in virtue of the provisions of this Act, Lord C[hief] J[ustice] Parker (afterwards Lord Macclesfield) who had succeeded to the C[hief] Justiceship on the death of Lord C[hief] J[ustice] Holt, acted as one of the Lords Justices in the year 1714, until his Majesty George 1st arrived within the realm.

And by the 24 George II, chapter 24, and the 5 George III, chapter 67, section 9 (the two last Regency Bills) the Lord C[hief] J[ustice] of the King's Bench for the time being, and who at the time of passing the first of these Acts was Sir William Lee, and of the latter, Lord Mansfield, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treasurer or first Commissioner of the Treasury, Lord Privy Seal, Lord High Admiral, or first Commissioner of the Admiralty, and the two principal Secretaries of State, was appointed of the Council of Regency to assist the Regent during the minority

of the heir to the Crown.

"I did myself the honour of calling upon your Lordship this morning in order to have learnt your Lordship's opinion as to the course which it may be deemed expedient to pursue in respect to Judge Fox's business. What strikes me at present upon the subject is this, that it is to be regretted that it was ever brought before Parliament at all; and that, though there is much matter for censure in the violent and indiscreet conduct he has pursued, that there is hardly enough of criminality to warrant so harsh a measure as an address of both Houses of Parliament for his removal. And if it is not to go that length at last, might it not as well rest where it is at present.

"I wished likewise to have taken your Lordship's pleasure as to the propriety of hinting to the Archbishop of Canterbury to convene a meeting of the Governors of the Charterhouse. If no election is made by us within two months from the

vacancy, the right of nomination lapses to the Crown."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, February 27. Charles Street.—"Lord Stair has just called upon me to beg me to state to you that the borongh of Stranraw, one of the contributory boroughs of Galloway, belongs to him, and that his family have always recommended for the Treasury patronage in that borough; but that last year, the collector of the port having misbehaved, not only he but also the surveyor and comptroller were removed, and three other men were put in by Lord Galloway's recommendation. Lord Stair describes this as a new act of hostility to him in his own borough, and he wants to remove Lord Galloway's three nominees, and to put in three new men to be recommended as usual by his own family. Lord Stair is fair enough to apprize you that Lord Galloway will have

the next nomination for these boroughs, but still he asks to be enabled to remove Lord Galloway's men now for the first time forced in upon his borough of Stanraw. I have promised to tell his story, and I have told it; it is for you and

Lord Spencer to answer him.

"I begin to be in a fever at seeing your Treasury Secretary, King, not yet in Parliament; surely it is highly necessary that he should be so, if hostilities are to commence. In this view I wish you very much to consider of the advantage of taking at least the temporary benefit of Buckingham. It could come back to me whenever an occasion presented, and I am, as you know, so bad an attender, that it is no sacrifice for me to make, and a seat for King must be had. If you knew what a bad cold I am going to have, you would easily admit the propriety of accepting my offer. Pray let me add to this note a request to you to ask King whether your Treasury patronage will easily afford the means of any quiet retreat for poor Francois? Perhaps his being a foreigner is in the way; but if that is no objection, I should be glad to place him, and to get a younger servant in his stead. Thus end my statements for self and company.

Postscript.—"Sir Watkin wishes to be a Privy Councillor; but if you see difficulties, tell him so, and you will find him

very reasonable."

C. J. Fox to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, February 27. Arlington Street.—"I return you Mr. Ward's letter. I know nothing of the legality of the If it comes in question, I must say I think decidedly on its impropriety. The pretence of leaving a profession for 12 months appears to me to be scandalous. Most of the instances quoted apply to long service, which totally alters the case. As to the mode and the fee of the office and foreign incidents, I do not yet understand the nature of these funds, and I rather suspect there should be established for the future something more certain and intelligible with regard to them. The Secretary of State's Office has always been considered as more pure with respect to jobs than any other, but it is highly material that it should preserve its character in this respect. If I were to go out a year hence would it be in my power to give Sir Francis Vincent a pension on the ground of his having quitted the Bar. I am as sure that it ought not, as that, if it were, I should not so abuse that power. If Ward's pension is legal there is an end of it; but to his equitable pretensions, and his refusal of the place of Welsh judge, I cannot think we ought to listen.

"You have disposed of the Lottery Commission quite rightly, and if I had known of such an intended disposition I would not have applied; but on a future vacancy Mr. Douglas

may possibly be attended to.

"I continue in my wish that Lauderdale may have the Great Seal if only for a week. I am afraid there are notions of family pride in Scotland that would not make Lord Minto go down smoothly for that office. Lord Archibald Hamilton had spoken to me in case of Lord Frederick's death, but I told him to wait for the event, and then apply to Lord Spencer. It is most material that Lord Spencer should be the minister for Scotland, listening of course to the suggestions of Scotchmen of consequence and to ours.

"Of the prisoners more when you have seen the papers. In regard to the Hanoverian business I will, within this day or two, prepare a plan in writing for your approbation first, and for that of the Cabinet afterwards. I do not like much the idea of the Duke of Cambridge. Surely it is more decorous to apply first to Berlin, and afterwards or, if you will, at the same time, to Petersburgh to support your application. The notion of war with Prussia appears to me to be quite wild."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, February 28. Charles Street.—"Although desired to burn the enclosed, as it is necessarily doubtful when I may see you, I send it you to read because it is interesting enough. In the first place it shows Long's desire to assist very strongly, and it proves, what I had before heard, that Canning is the most vehement source of hostility. Surely no time should be lost in your cultivating Lord Carrington, for Long's information respecting him is the best authority that you can have.

"I have not seen you since you saw William Dundas, so I know not what passed. He could certainly be made useful enough, if he would really act bona fide individually; but I own I fear that he naturally must look to keeping up a Scotch party, at the head of which he would naturally find himself. At all events it is useful to show by communication with him, that there is at least no spirit of proscription to that class; and the advantage of this demonstration is felt in the Duke of

Buccleugh's language.

"I think your answer to Lord Stair is as it ought to be. A bird has whispered to me that his real and great object is peerage, but that his fancy and pride is not to ask it. I know not your facilities or difficulties in this matter, but, if the question should arise in your mind, it is worth your while to know that Lord Stair would be likely to feel and act honourably by those who conferred on him any such gratuitous obligation. Do not however mistake me, and believe that I am urging this at his or at anybody's request. I tell you only a whisper that I have heard, and my own comment upon it. Would it not be right to suggest if possible next Wednesday for Lord Brome's carrying the insignia; this would not interfere with any fancies about St. George's; but Lord Brome is staying only for this under a particular request made to him, and he will not stay beyond *Wednesday*. If he goes back sulky no man knows when he will come again, and that may defer what we all wish was already done. Pray do not forget to send me back what I enclose to you, as I make a point always of restoring what I am desired to burn."

LORD GRENVILLE to C. J. Fox.

1806, February 28. Camelford House.—"I cannot avoid communicating to you in confidence the inclosed letter which King has this morning put into my hands. I was quite unapprized of any intention on the part of Lord Henry to make these motions. I had one evening here some conversation with him on the financial measures of the year in which he stated a wish of limiting in some degree the power of granting reversions, in answer to which, if I remember right, I said generally that I saw no objection to confining it to one life beyond that of the actual possessor of the office; but I certainly had no conception that the subject was meant to be pursued without further communication with me.

"It is impossible not to see the reference that all this has in fact to a system of attack on the measures of the late Government, a system possibly right to be pursued by those whose opinions lead them to it, but in which I never for a moment have given to any person reason to think that I could concur. What I have seen of Lord Henry inclines me to be persuaded that, if he saw this thing in its true light as a general principle necessarily attaching on a Government composed as ours is, there could not arise the necessity of discussing in this manner its application to particular questions and

points of attack.

"If it is more agreeable to you that I should state to him at once the explanations on this head which took place between yourself and me, when we first saw the possibility of our acting together, and those which have recently occurred, I cannot have the smallest difficulty in doing so. I have nothing to conceal on the subject. My idea has always been that persons who have differed however widely as to past transactions may agree in prospective measures for the public service; and may (if they have a mutual confidence in each other's honour) render in that manner essential benefits to the But this can only be done by carefully abstaining from retrospect. If that is forced upon us by our adversaries we must then do what in such case may be absolutely necessary, but even then we must do it with forbearance and attention to our mutual feelings. But to seek out this difficulty, and to provoke it by separate motions adopted without previous communication, is in its effect (but I am persuaded not in its design), nothing else than a contravention and breach of the fundamental principle on which our union rests.

"If you think on the other hand, that the object of union and confidence will be better consulted by your conversing on the subject confidentially with Lord Henry, I am perfectly satisfied that (provided the thing be fully explained) it should be explained in any mode that you prefer as most conducive to that harmony which it is my most earnest wish to preserve undisturbed. But I should act dishonourably both by you and by others if I did not once again repeat that no consideration can induce me to continue to belong to a Government of which it should appear that its object is, in the present difficulties of the country, rather to condemn and censure the measures of their predecessors (to many of which I am proud of thinking that I was myself a party) than to apply themselves by conciliation and moderation to rally all descriptions of public men round them in a course of vigorous measures necessary for the public safety.

"It is as disagreeable to me as it can be to you that our time should be wasted just now in such discussions as these; but you will certainly do me the justice to say that the thing

is not of my seeking, but is forced upon me." Copy.

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, [February]. London.—"I have received last night a letter from Lord Hardwicke stating difficulties about the appointment of Chancellor in Ireland. I send you the letter, having already communicated the contents of it to Elliott, who will speak to George Ponsonby about it. I see only one way out of the difficulty, which is to put the Great Seal in Ireland in commission; because it will be extremely inconvenient, to say no worse, for us to let George Ponsonby go off in a hurry before we have settled several important points of arrangement with him.

"This being the case, I know of no other business that presses for the King's coming to town; unless you think that Lord Cornwallis's delivering up his father's George and ribbon is of that description. This however he might do at Windsor if the King chose it; and, as I know he is now waiting in town on purpose, perhaps I might write to the

King to that effect.

"I send you a draft I made last night of a letter to the Lord Lieutenant on the subject we discussed in Cabinet. I am so little in the habit of drawing up this kind of paper that I wish much you would have the goodness to look it over and suggest any corrections, alterations, or additions you may think right. It is not unlikely to be a matter which will come into public discussion, and it is therefore of more importance to have it correct."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, March 1. Downing Street.—" I certainly think you had better speak to Lord Henry yourself. I quite agree to

your statement of our understanding about retrospect, but I have always distinguished what was retrospect in 1804 and is now become so; among other reasons for this, that neither you nor your political friends could be parties to the transactions of a Ministry to which you were in declared hostility. But there is another distinction very material between attack and reform. I told Lord Henry some weeks ago that in every measure of proper reform and economy he would certainly have my full support, looking however at that moment rather to Cabinet than to Parliament. I am convinced that if he had not thought that having the facts laid before the House was a matter of course, and pledged neither himself nor any one else, he would not have made his motions without consultation. Perhaps at any rate it would have been as well that he should previously have mentioned the matter to you. To no attack or censure of any measure of Pitt's first administration will I consent. unless forced to it by the Pittites; but that a ministry coming in at such a time as we do should do nothing in the way of reform prospectively, or decline inquiring, where necessary, into the acts of Pitt's last ministry, to which we were jointly adverse, would surely be as impolitic for ourselves as unfair to the public. Even with regard to the last ministry, our immediate predecessors, I would be far from seeking occasions, but to give up any publick good measure in order to avoid them is another thing. The reversions are in my mind a crying and, I may almost say, an intolerable grievance, from the extent to which they are carried; but, except perhaps in one or two cases during the last administration, I would not touch anything of the rest for the purpose of censure, but would only limit ourselves and our successors. It is easy to say that practice and precedent might justify the act, but that provision should be made for the future, perhaps in the limited way you mention or perhaps more generally. Believe me, there is no one more anxious to attend not only to your reasonable feelings concerning a ministry of which you made a part, but even to what I deem unreasonable personal delicacies which may affect your mind. I meant our coalition should be carried on with more than general goodwill and fairness, nay with the most perfect cordiality of friendship; if it is not it shall never be my fault."

LORD HENRY PETTY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 3. Bolton Street.—"I enclose the papers I mentioned yesterday. The measure of abolishing the monopoly and extending the number of companies of insurance, by which the public might have the full benefit of competition without risk, appears to me a measure which could be attended with none but beneficial consequences.

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, March 4. Palaee Yard.—"Your note with the eopy of Lord Bristol's motion did not find its way to my table before I went to the House. You had also enclosed the letter which I now return, not because it seems material to be returned, but as it is possible that you meant to send some

other papers.

"The impression of last night's debate was certainly very favourable to the character and weight of your Government: and though there is a visible disposition among some individuals to be hostile, and a belief in their minds that by being so, they are sure on the first serious difficulty to make their way to some new change, I think that they will be disappointed. It would be material to have a list of those who attended yesterday; I believe that we shall find that two of the princes, and many of the bedchamber, and others of that description absented themselves.

"The Chancellor has eommunicated to me a very short declaratory Bill on the Law Question, which he had prepared and shown to Lord Thurlow, and which he is trying to settle with Lord Ellenborough and Lord Eldon; in the intention that Lord Eldon should move it. At any rate the situation of that business will make our sitting to-day very short; but perhaps you will think it right to come for half an hour at

half past 4.

"I have received to-day various applications from the agents of the West Indian Islands to be heard to-morrow on the necessity of a more extended communication with the United States. The urgency and responsibility attending that question and some others will force me, I fear, to request a special attendance at the Committee; not to-morrow or for the tedious business of examinations, but for the discussion of the applications made, and of the line to be pursued respecting them."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, March 4. Camelford House.—"The letter which you returned to me I had sent to you thinking it had eome to me under your eover. I have not kept the attendance list of yesterday, but I mean to get it again from Cowper. I ealeulate that they might have divided seven or eight, not more. You observed, I daresay, that Lord Chatham, Lord Bathurst, Lord Camden, were all absent. The Duke of York came down and would have voted with us; the only absent Duke (Prinees) was Cambridge. I will try to eome down today to the bill, but I rather doubt the possibility.

"We must certainly consider in Cabinet the question you mention. My own impressions have always been favourable to all questions of extended intercourse between the West Indian Islands and the United States; but just now this

mixes itself with the political questions we are unhappily engaged in with the latter.

"If you will let me see you here Friday at 12, we will then

talk over whatever business you have for me." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE tO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, March 5. Camelford House.—"I took the liberty of presenting myself at Carleton House on my return from the Queen's House, but was so unfortunate as not to find your Royal Highness. My object was to submit an idea which had occurred to me on the subject on which your Royal Highness had been conversing with me. It is, that some of the objects in view might possibly be attained by the appointment of Mr. Francis to the Government of the Cape, a situation of such rank and estimation as to have been held by Lord Macartney after he had been many years Governor of Fort Saint George, and had refused the offer of going as Governor-General to Bengal. I mentioned this suggestion to Mr. Windham, to whom it was (as I was sure it would be) perfectly acceptable, and there would be no difficulty in its being immediately mentioned to Mr. Francis. Possibly also the ultimate object to which your Royal Highness alluded might be looked to more naturally as the reward of such service than in any other manner; but on this point I should wish to converse with Mr. Fox before I committed myself to any positive engagement." Copy.

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, March 5. Stable Yard.—" Lest other business should prevent an opportunity of speaking to you to-day at Lord Spencer's, I trouble you with this to say how very anxious I find all Grey's friends and family to be about the earldom for his father. He himself says nothing, but I am sure he feels the same anxiety. They wish, too, it should be done if possible before Lord Grey comes to town. If therefore you can speak to the King about it to-day, I shall be very much obliged to you. If you think mentioning Lord Walpole, for whose object both Fitz-William and myself are anxious, at the same time would create or add to any difficulty, that may be postponed.

"With respect to what I said about moving the old India resolution last night, I will do precisely and exactly what you please, but I am of opinion that for quieting (not Paul and a few others but) the Directors and others, it would be very advantageous. However, I repeat, do you judge and I will be governed by your decision. I do not believe any one else has any thought of moving it, nor shall I mention

it to any one.

"Pray do not omit speaking about Lord Grey's earldom to-day, and Lord Walpole's, if it makes no additional difficulty." I suppose you do not care about an eardom yourself, but I think such a mark of Royal favour to you would be very

useful to us all at this time.

Postscript.—"There is a fatality attending my memory about these poor baronets. I have left, it seems, the list at the Office, but will let you have it in time to mention them to-day if you think fit. If not, I hope you will do it by letter time enough to be in Saturday's gazette, for the outcry increases upon me every day. They are, with the exception only of Lubbock the banker, all men of family, and all of them I believe, men of fortune."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, March 6.—"I send you Talleyrand's letters, which came by the flag of truce last night. Pray send them back as soon as you can, as I have no copies yet. I will let you have by and by copies of mine to which they are answers that you may more completely understand them. What hour to-morrow will be most convenient for a Cabinet on them?"

LORD GRENVILLE to C. J. Fox.

1806, March 6. Downing Street.—"You will much oblige me if you can find time to read the enclosed. Taylor was my private secretary when I was in the Foreign Office, and is really a very discreet, prudent, and excellent young man, and I can with great confidence recommend him to your protection. I will thank you to return me his letter when you have read it, that I may answer it."

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, March 6.—"I return you Taylor's letter. I had written him a letter to approve his leaving Cassel, which he left Berlin too soon to receive. He is now come, and I saw him this morning. I completely approved his leaving Berlin, and in the little conversation I had with him liked him very much, and will do anything you wish to serve him.

"Pray turn your mind to the business of to-morrow's Cabinet. Something must be said, and it may be very

material to set out right.

"I send you my letters to Talleyrand, and the French officer's note."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, March [7]. Arlington Street.—"It is singular that it should have escaped my memory in our conversation this morning (but it really is so) that many of Tiernay's friends have talked of him for the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer for Ireland. It would certainly be desirable that he should

have something, and I do not know but this might be a proper situation for him. He states fairly that he has no elaim whatever on any part of the Government, and therefore the placing of him is no more my business than yours, or yours than mine. To some he would be more exceptionable than Long, to others less so. Joining the two Treasuries is, I know, a plan to which he is inclined. Perhaps it would be best that you should only sound Long, and consult the Duke of Bedford and Elliot, before any thing is fixed. Our consultation with them ought not to be long deferred. The more I think of it the more I should be concerned anything were finally fixed before the Duke of Bedford is consulted.

"Whatever is proposed to the Duke of Bedford I am eonfident he will agree to, but I think he would like his

previous eonsent to be asked."

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, March 8. St. Anne's Hill.—"Upon reflection, I thought the King might be displeased at my delaying so long sending him an account of the flag of truce, and therefore I sent the papers, together with my letters, to Windsor. I enclose you a copy of the answer, which is as unpleasant as possible. If you think he will be satisfied by our making our reply merely in the form of a private communication from me, I have no great objection, provided it be well understood that in substance it is the communication of the whole Cabinet. If his Majesty will not consent to this, or rather if he forbids this, I see nothing to do but to go out. Pray think seriously of this.

"I enclose you a letter from Lauderdale, to which attention

must be paid in proper time.

Postscript.—"I leave it to your judgment whether it would not be best to eommunicate what has passed to Lord Spencer, Lord Moira, or Grey, or any such other member of the Cabinet whom you may see to-morrow, previous to our meeting on Monday morning."

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to THE SAME.

1806, March 8. Riehmond Park.—"I enclose the letter which I mentioned to you yesterday, which I am sure will

interest you.

"The discussions on Indian subjects in the House of Commons are becoming very unpleasant. An enquiry into past transactions must be embarrassing to Government; and cannot be useful to the public, if we are agreed, as I rather think we are, with respect to the policy to be acted upon in future. If, however, these proceedings are to go on, they ought to be considered in Cabinet, as it is become material to let it be known whether the questions with which they are connected are to be considered as Government questions; and if they are, what is the line which we mean to pursue.

You will probably think it right to have some conversation with Mr. Fox previous to a Cabinet discussion. I have not mentioned the subject to him."

EARL SPENCER to THE SAME.

1806, March 10. St. James's Place.—"I send you the enclosed papers received late last night from Dublin. When you have read them, you will either be so good as to send them back to me, or (as I should rather think will be most advisable) send them to Mr. Fox to read, that we then may have some private conversation on the subject of them before they go further.

"It certainly does appear, from all the different intimations we have received upon the subject, that some designs are at present entertained at Paris against Bonaparte; and it will be very incumbent on us to act with such circumspection as to be quite clear of any concert with them, which it will

however be a little difficult to do."

LORD HOLLAND to THE SAME.

1806, March 10. [Holland House.]—" I venture to write to you on a subject on which I am very anxious, and on which my uncle Mr. Fox assures me that I can without impropriety trouble you. It is in favour of a gentleman, Mr. Allen, who accompanied me abroad, and for whom, if I have any interest or influence with Government, I am not only called upon by friendship but bound in honour to provide. For that purpose I should wish, if possible, to procure for him a place of 400l. per annum which does not require attendance or confinement, because, should I ever be employed myself, especially abroad, it would be a great privation to me to be without his company and assistance. His abilities, acquirements, and character certainly render him fit for any employment, and my motive in soliciting a sinecure for him is purely selfish. Had there been any office of that description in my uncle's immediate department he would have had it, but we have just ascertained the two I had mentioned to be patent places, or at least not removable.

"As I wished not to defer my exertions in his behalf, and am nevertheless unable, through ignorance, to specify any particular office in your gift which would suit him, I have not only to apologise for the application itself, but must rely on your good nature to pardon me for leaving to you the trouble of ascertaining what would meet my ideas on the

subject."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HOLLAND.

1806, March 10. Camelford House.—"They are not words of course that I am using when I assure you that I must on every account feel particularly desirous of finding some

opportunity of providing for Mr. Allen in the manner you mention. I am not as yet well acquainted, scarcely at all indeed, with the means for that purpose which are likely to be within my reach; but from what I have hitherto seen, I am afraid that places of the description you mention, requiring no attendance and permitting residence abroad, are not very frequently within my disposal. All I can do is to assure you with great sincerity that I shall be careful to keep your application in mind, and most truly desirous of finding an opportunity of doing what you wish."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 10. [Charles Street.]—"I called this morning to tell you that Lord Stafford has fought a stout battle for the Lord Lieutenants, and has prevailed: so that you are not to hear of any recommendations for charges of that sort from your Committee, although they will be obliged to suggest

Mr. Maule as a fair candidate for a peerage.

"I have told Lord Stair what you said respecting the collector in his borough; he admits the general propriety of your rule, but he is inclined to think that, as the former collector was displaced only eight months ago in hostility to himself, on account of his political support of those who are now ministers, it would be but an act of justice to Lord Stair to give him back what had been just taken from him. He adds that this is so much considered in Scotland as a right and fair thing, that he does not believe any body would complain of it. I have promised that you yourself will either speak or write to him upon this matter, whenever you shall determine upon what is to be done."

LORD GRENVILLE to C. GREY.

1806, March 11. Camelford House.—"I send you herewith a letter from Mr. Thompson with its enclosures. In consequence of my having received it I have judged it best to postpone seeing him till we had an opportunity of conversing together on the subject, on which I wish of course to be

regulated entirely by your judgment.

"I enclose also the memorial which I mentioned to you; it is from Captain Dundas of the *Naiad*. I should suppose there would be no difficulty in intimating to him privately the propriety of his withdrawing it, and sending in one in the usual form signed by himself in the name of his officers and crew, in which case no time shall be lost in taking it into consideration. *Copy*.

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, March 11. Camelford House.—"I have received the enclosed, and you have probably many more such letters; but I wish to take this opportunity of mentioning to you that

I think it may be very necessary that, before any augmentation of the pay of the army officers is publicly announced, the situation of the officers of the navy should also attentively be considered; that we may be prepared either to announce some similar attention to them if it be right, or to resist the suggestions on that head which will certainly be made at that time." Copy.

Private. C. GREY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 11. Admiralty.—"I have received both your lordship's notes of this day's date. The pay of the lieutenants will require some consideration. No discontent, I believe, existed before the pay of the surgeons was increased, which was done by Lord Melville, and with so little attention, as it would seem, to any just proportion, that it now exceeds the pay of a captain. It is probable that the complaints which have originated from this source may be still further increased if the pay of the officers of the army should receive any addition; and I certainly will not fail to give the subject an early and attentive consideration.

"I shall be very glad, at any time that may suit your convenience, to converse with your lordship on the subject of the commission for revising the civil affairs of the navy. In the meantime I return the enclosures, having a copy of the statement of the progress they have already made, and of

their intended course of proceeding.

"I have desired Mr. Marsden to write to Captain Dundas, but as he is on the Mediterranean station, it will be some time before his answer can be received."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, March 11. Palace Yard.—"We yesterday referred the new article from the Commons to the Committee (a standing Committee) for enquiring into proceedings in cases of impeachment. The Committee will sit to-day at a quarter before 3, and will (I suppose) merely report, that there does not appear on the rolls of Parliament or in the journals of the House any instance of an additional article being received by the Lords, after an answer had been given to any of the preceding articles. That report, with the article itself, must be printed, and probably Thursday or Friday will be appointed for the consideration, at which I hope you will find it practicable to be present. There is a diversity of opinions on the subject among those whom I have happened to see: Mr. Cowper, Mr. Hatsell, the Speaker, Lord Holland, Lord Carnarvon.

"On the one hand the proceeding is novel, and certainly the article would be inadmissible (as an additional article) if issue had been joined on the preceding articles; and objectionable, though issue had not been joined, if the answer to the preceding articles had not been a general plea of not guilty. But on the other hand nothing has been disclosed

by the defendant, and the Commons have it in their power to bring the article in another mode if we negative this mode. I understand also that Lord Melville's agents do not object. Mr. Cowper inclined yesterday to think that we might order

the article to be communicated to Lord Melville.

"Sir John Nicholl having given to me yesterday his attendance and assistance on several points at the Committee for trade, I took occasion to refer to him the complaint of the American merchants, for his opinion and observations thereon. We expect an instructive answer, which we will send with the paper itself to Mr. Fox's department; and

copies of both papers shall be sent to you.

"A new application was made yesterday for a license to send a very large cargo of British cottons in a neutral ship direct to Martinique. We refused the license, and yet under a full sense that there is both an inconsistency and detriment resulting from the King's instruction respecting the point to which the case relates. This same neutral ship (if German) may go with the cargo first to Embden or Hamburgh, and then proceed to Martinique; or (if American) she may go first to a port of the United States and thence to Martinique. Either of these obvious operations will gratuitously throw the whole commission profit of six or eight per cent. to the neutrals; besides other evident ill effects. This whole subject seems to call for consideration.

Private. "I find, and even among many who are sincere well-wishers, an impatience to see something brought forward respecting the military system. It seems to be felt that the

financial business may require time."

LORD GRENVILLE to C. GREY.

1806, March 13. Camelford House.—"I have received the enclosed from Captain Mudge, with whose services (particularly in the action of last year) you are probably well acquainted.

"Although I cannot certainly urge this with the same earnestness that I did a similar application respecting Captain Barrie, yet I should certainly feel a pleasure in contributing (if it is consistent with your other engagements) to Captain Mudge's being employed." Copy.

C. GREY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March [14]. Admiralty.—"Accounts were received by the Board to-day of the state of the *Phænix*, which we were a good deal surprised to find so bad, as it is only a year since she was docked. Orders are sent to Plymouth for a particular report upon her, and I sincerely hope there may be no necessity for paying her off, as, in the present state of my engagements, I fear it will be some time before I can offer Captain Mudge another ship. His own services, however, as well as your lordship's recommendation will certainly interest me in his favour.

"Captain Barrie has leave of absence for ten days, at the expiration of which the last accounts lead us to expect that the *Brilliant* will be ready to go to sea."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, March 14. Park Lane.—"In considering the intentions of Mr. Fox, as you stated them to me last night, I am clearly of opinion that the revival of the resolution of Parliament which prohibits schemes of conquest and aggrandisement in India must be deemed to involve a censure of my administration, unless the motion be accompanied by a clear declaration on the part of Mr. Fox, calculated to counteract any such impression.

"It is impossible for me or for any friend of mine to support the resolution without a distinct previous explanation from Mr. Fox, of the intention and object of reviving it at this time. The revival of the resolution would place me, under such circumstances, in the most unjust and unmerited situation, and would, in fact, be the most hostile step which

could be adopted against my reputation and honour.

"If Mr. Fox will publicly declare in the House of Commons that it is not his intention to countenance attacks upon my conduct, and that in moving or supporting the revival of the resolution, he disclaims all intention either of censuring, directly or by implication, my administration, or of insinuating that I have violated the resolution; I cannot object to the resolution, although I certainly see no reason for any declaration of that kind at present. It will be perfectly easy for me to demonstrate that the resolution never has been violated, and I am ready to attend Mr. Fox, or to furnish him with the necessary proofs in writing of that fact; but I cannot agree to consider myself as placed in a just or advantageous situation if required to state that fact in supporting the revival of the resolution, unless Mr. Fox shall have properly explained his object.

"My situation would be more honourable, and more conformable to my character and wishes, if I were to abide the result of the longest possible inquiry, and stand at last upon the justice of the country, than if I were to concur in reviving a resolution of which the renewal, unexplained, would amount to as severe a sentence against me as could follow

the most unfavourable result of the most rigid trial.

"I am anxious to put you in possession of my sentiments before Mr. Fox gives any notice of any motion to the proposed effect. Perhaps it might at all events be desirable to pause for a few days before any decision is taken upon a question which so deeply affects the character of a person who is conscious of just claims upon the public gratitude; and which also involves other serious considerations of policy and discretion."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 14. Palace Yard.—"Viewing the prodigious and increasing extent of our mercantile interests, I have not a doubt that it would be a measure of great public benefit to revise the system of marine insurances as now carried on under the protection of statutes made fourscore years ago. Nor can it be doubted that it would be desirable to remove any restraint on the fair competition of rich and responsible companies in a business which depends so essentially on

competition and confidence.

"I had not heard of the enclosed papers before you sent them to me; but I suspect on reading them, that they are either suggested or written by my nephew Sir Frederic Eden, who has with great ability and perseverance established the Globe Insurance Office on a large scale, and is the governor of that establishment with the unanimous concurrence of very opulent proprietors. As that personal connection might affect me perhaps in point of delicacy, if the inquiry were instituted on any special reference of an application from the Globe Insurance, I should certainly prefer, if the enquiry should be made at the Committee of Council, that it should be made on the abstract and impartial question whether it is expedient to recommend to Parliament to give to the King a power to increase the number of marine insurance offices. curious enquiry must in that case be made respecting the actual system and its extent, and advantages and disadvantages, as now conducted whether by individuals or by the two companies. Nor have I doubt that the measure might be made both beneficial to the trade, and a considerable source of revenue. I recollect that when the Globe Office was established, the subscribers made some very large offer respecting the redemption of the Land Tax, if they could have in return a more extensive privilege.

"This subject reminds me of a question which I have often thought of submitting to you, whether, beyond the general accommodation, the Bank of England ought not to pay for the continued suspension of money payments, which gives a gain of not less than 700,000l. per year? And the Bank of

Ireland also in due proportion?"

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, March 15. [Downing Street.]—"I trust you and I are not likely to dispute much about a question of patronage, but I am pretty confident you will find on enquiry that all agencies of foreign possessions have been invariably in the gift of the Treasury. I am sure they were so when I held the Seals, because I myself well recollect asking one of them from Mr. Pitt as a favour in behalf of my own private secretary.

"The different practice in the case of Ceylon arose from a desire to contrive that the person named should continue to hold a seat in Parliament, which, if named by anybody at home, he could not have done. And Dundas, when he had once established this precedent at Ceylon, was probably ready enough to follow it up elsewhere; but I am much mistaken if you will find, on examining your books, a single precedent prior to that. The question is, however, easily settled by such a reference, and I am sure I should be the last person breathing that would wish to push a claim of this sort beyond the strictest bounds of right and precedent." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 15. Palace Yard.—"In the hurry of more important matters you had omitted to mention to Mr. Windham the measure taken for the better supply of the West Indies with Newfoundland fish by a direct trade in British ships during He spoke to me about it yesterday with some alarm at one part of the proposition which, coming on him suddenly, had seemed to impose on his Office the responsibility of an unlimited suspension of a part of the Navigation Act. I explained to him (and I believe to his satisfaction) that nothing new is done by the measure, except that it is modification and improvement of a breach of law invariably permitted as necessary during war; and annually sanctioned by Parliament. The existing proclamations never expire, but are continued and must be continued from six months to six months. The necessity on which they are grounded must prevail during war because we have not British shipping and sailors sufficient to supply our islands with lumber and provisions. The only alteration is that, instead of a renewal from six months to six months, the limitation of time is put to a six months notice of the expiration of the proclamation. The West India agents and proprietors stated that notice as their best security against temporary interruptions of supply and consequent famine; and in return for it they adopt the measure of paying a bounty of 20 per cent. on our Newfoundland fish, the operation of which bounty is uncertain in its extent, but must be salutary so far as it goes.

"The Impeachment Committee was well attended yesterday by all the learned Lords, Lord Radnor, Lord Carnarvon and others; in the result it seemed to be the general impression and opinion that the new article ought to be communicated to Lord Melville for his answer; and I have no doubt that this will be the result. Lord Carnarvon's precedent is not in point; Lord Oxford had not pleaded to the preceding articles when the additional charges were offered. The most material passage in the journals is to be found April 16, 1679 (page 520), where the Lord Chancellor informs Lord Danby that he must answer on a given day to the articles brought, and that he shall have further time to answer to any new articles that shall be brought up against him, and shall know

his whole charge before his trial.

"I attended by desire of Sir J. Nicholls yesterday at the Cockpit, to hear the Master of the Rolls deliver a judgment on an American appeal. The tendency of that judgment is to set aside the pretension of the Americans to legalise their cargoes by a fictitious landing and reshipping, and by a pretended payment of duties. The judgment was given with great ability; but will create a very strong sensation. That whole subject calls for an immediate and very solemn consideration.

Confidential. "I have been told that Lord M[elville] talks of applying to withdraw his plea in order to plead guilty."

THOMAS GRENVILLE tO LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March.—Elliot has been pressed for Sir John Parnell to succeed Marsden by G. Ponsonby; and this morning Elliot received a letter from Sir John Parnell himself soliciting the appointment, and saying that Lady Portarlington had applied in his favour to the Prince of Wales, who had promised to use all his influence in his favour. It seems therefore not improbable that the Prince will urge this point to-day; in that case I have advised Elliot to say that he had absolutely depended upon Marsden's assistance at least for the two first months, if not permanently; and that if Marsden was ultimately removed, it would probably appear necessary to construct that Office anew, so as to divide it into two, as the present business is too much for one.

"This arrangement may at least furnish Elliot the advantage of parrying in some shape the inconvenience of Parnell's succeeding absolutely to Marsden by the appointment of the Prince of Wales; and may afford Elliot the means of having (with Parnell if that cannot be resisted) some confidential person attached to himself in that department. I have not mentioned either Herbert or Fremantle to Elliot, because he seemed to think (and I agree with him) that if Parnell is pressed, nobody can be named in contrast with him, except he be of known and admitted pretensions such as Sir George Shee or Hammond. But Sir George will not go, and I know not whether Hammond is of sufficient energy and activity; but of that you can better judge.

"Lord Stafford desires me to beg, as a particular favour, that when Onslow, now 82, dies, you will admit of Lord Stafford's recommendation to the office of Receiver of Customs at Liverpool; an office which it is very important to Lord Stafford's canal interests should be held by hands friendly to be a stafford."

friendly to him."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, March 16. Charles Street.—"I have obtained a book of intelligence respecting the present state of the parliamentary interest of Scotland, which is drawn up by a very

sensible and well-informed man who is connected confidentially with Lord Stafford, and whose general statements I believe to be fair and correct, and, as such, likely to be very useful to you. I must beg that you will have it copied immediately by some confidential person, and returned to me as soon as possible. I enclose likewise a letter from Lady Stafford in which she requests, as you see, that at the election for the county of Fife you will not throw the weight of Government influence against Mr. Wemys, who is her nearest relation. He is her first cousin, and her nearest connection in Scotland. I am aware that Fox will naturally wish for Ferguson, who is a great supporter of his; but I suppose that the relationship between Lady Stafford and Mr. Wemys will be a sufficient reason for the influence of the Treasury not being exerted against Wemys. The election is expected to be hard run. I must trouble you to write me such an answer as I may communicate to Lady Stafford.

"We never meet, and that is a great evil, though perhaps your occupations make it a necessary one. You see however by the information which I have got arranged for you in the last fortnight, in the book which I send, that I am not

unmindful of helping you where I can."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, March 16. Palace Yard.—"You were so good as to say that you would let me know your decision relative to the secret application of two or three houses in the city to be licensed to purchase Spanish bills payable in South America. They have repeatedly asked for an answer; and unless there should be some special agreement to the contrary with Messers Baring and Co., the expediency is equal in regard to all respectable houses; and I do not see that the operations can materially clash. Only the licenses so given should bear some proportion to the exported cargoes of British manufactures. Encouragement in that respect is very important, for I hear that some of our manufacturing towns (more especially in Lancashire) are suffering much under a want of orders for export.

"I find that by some strange oversight the continued breach of the Navigation Act (that breach has not been discontinued since 1794) in the proclamations for the supply of the islands in neutral bottoms, has not had the annual Bill of Indemnity since June, 1800. I have ordered a Bill to be prepared and will submit it to you. And it will cover what we have recently done, and which (though most evidently paid for by the bounty on British American fish) proves to be less than some of the former infractions; for we have in the

present instance excepted salt beef, pork, and butter.

Confidential. "I cannot doubt that it has been fully considered, and therefore it is perhaps more than superfluous to intimate a doubt, whether the expressions of a desire of

peace with England by adopting, as a basis, the stipulations, is such a bar to navigation as I thought it at first sight. Those stipulations went to the liberation not only of Holland, but of Naples, the Roman territory and others. They are inconsistent with the whole predicament of all the immense subsequent acquisitions, and inapplicable in other obvious respects. Perhaps therefore it might be desirable to ask for an explanation; and there are various modes of putting such an interrogatory."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD ELLENBOROUGH.

1806, March 17. Camelford House.—"You will, I am sure, attribute it to nothing but the pressure of the present moment, that I have not before this acknowledged your letter of the 13th instant on the subject of the promotion which may take place on the expected vacancy on the Bench of Bishops in Ireland. The name and character of the Bishop of Elphin are certainly well known to me, and I entertain for him a very sincere respect. His connection with your Lordship, as well as the general estimation in which he himself is held, would certainly make me desirous of contributing to the success of the wishes you express on his behalf on the present occasion, if it were possible for me to do so consistently with the arrangements which had already been nearly settled when the prospect of the vacancy was said to be nearer than it is now supposed to be. I trust however that some other opportunity may arise to enable me to testify the sincere desire I must always feel to comply with your wishes, particularly in favour of the Bishop of Elphin." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 17. [Pall Mall.]--" If the plan which I was at first inclined to for the reduction of the expense of the volunteer corps should be thought so decidedly better than that which I have since suggested, I can certainly retire to my first opinion, or to opinions even less consonant to my own, where the subject is of so doubtful a nature, should the opinions of others be found completely adverse. But I think you are all taking fright too soon, and concluding that the measure last proposed will annihilate the volunteer force, when a great doubt may be entertained whether it would not have the effect of augmenting it. I have been minuting down, as fast as I could, some of the heads of argument on that point, additional to what I had put down on a paper which I had left to be copied when I was interrupted yesterday morning; and will send you a copy before I get to the Office, from which I have been detained to-day beyond my usual time, and may be detained till it is too late to see you this morning. In the meantime, be assured that I agree with you on all the heads

of army reduction which you mention. I think the staff too numerous, both volunteer and other. I think the four Field Officers unnecessary, as also the four Officers to a company. The skeleton battalions cannot long be permitted to remain in their present state; and both cavalry and Guards ought, I think, to be on a lower establishment than those proposed, if not lower than their actual numbers. I shall urge all these points to the Duke of York should I see him to-day, without waiting for the letter which he thought would have been ready on Tuesday last. But, I assure you, you will not only raise a most formidable clamour, but, what is of far more importance, put Government in the wrong, if, for the sake of a saving no greater than will be obtained by some of the most obnoxious of these reductions, you were to carry them into execution at once. Consider by what a different feeling we are governed with respect to the volunteers. 100,000l. is nothing to gratify any of their most unreasonable feelings. But 100,000l. is all that we should gain, were we to reduce at once 171 Lieutenant-Colonels, 171 Majors, and nearly as many Lieutenants who, upon the prospect of an establishment which they were told was to be permanent, and was founded upon a measure which Government declared to be the mode of recruiting from which they would not depart, had come forward from half-pay and other situations, by the aid of friends and the exertion of all their little means. Surely it will be enough to say, on many of these heads of expense, that you mean your establishment finally to be so and so, but that you are restrained from making it so at once by considerations such as those which I have stated. It must be considered too that, if men are to be got, all these battalions will be required to be re-established, and in this view, I have wanted to talk to you upon a measure which would really be something for us; namely the adopting, with respect to the Irish militia, what I wished to have seen done with respect to the English. I understand, and from very good authority, that the Irish militia would, almost to a man, go into the reserved battalions, if not for general service; and that the admission of a certain portion of the officers would reconcile all parties to the measure. If no such prospect offers of filling these battalions, some reduction must be made, but then not by one sweeping stroke, but with selection, and partially, and gradually.

"Lord Moira's observation about the crowding into a regiment a number of half-trained and unclothed men, is certainly true. But that is not what is proposed. Men must ultimately be put into battalions, or the numbers in those battalions cannot be maintained; and will not that be sooner done, if you have the greater part of your military population half-trained, than if they have never had a musket in their hands? If this is not so, we had better have nothing to do with Training Act; bearing in mind only that, as all

our volunteers will be locked up in their corps, we shall have no recruits for our army (except so far as numbers of them will have been in volunteer corps) but men perfectly raw.

"Lord Moira's ideas go too much, I think, upon his favourite idea that we must either beat the enemy in the first battle,

or not at all.

"If we do but little with the volunteers, I think it may become a question which [why?] we should not try Fox's idea (and my former one) of merely voluntary training; setting up a rival sort of volunteers, who would be trained upon certain terms by the military. If little was gained little likewise would be lost; and might be stated as merely an experiment, previous to stronger measures.

"I will proceed to send off the paper which I mentioned, and to see, if I can, the Duke of York, stating what is wished, and requesting, as soon as he can let us have it, the paper

he proposed.

Postscript.—"It seems likely that a new consul must be appointed at Algiers, in the room of the one now there, who seems to have been doing ill; at the same time that the place, according to the statement from Lord Collingwood, is becoming

daily more important.

"If there should be any one for whom you are pressed for an appointment, and who can be relied on for judgment, I shall have an opportunity perhaps of appointing him. I say, who is well qualified, for I have put by two near connections of my own, whom I am very anxious to provide for, and both unexceptionable in character, from doubting of their perfect qualifications for the situation. Is it a situation that Gregory would accept? I have a person in my eye, a retired Lieutenant-Colonel, whom I knew only when I was in the War Office, who, I think, would be an excellent man; but a person might be found as good, and he has no expectation of anything of the sort."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 20. [Pall Mall.]—" Will it be possible for me to see you sometime this evening so as to settle something finally; something about these establishments, as well as to talk over the other measures previous to our having a meeting of Cabinet, which, I think, there should be either to-morrow

or Saturday.

"Upon the Volunteers the question will be between the measure as first proposed, and the alteration which I afterwards recommended, and which I still think is best, and will not be attended with the dangers which you apprehend. But I am ready there to be governed by the general sentiment, wishing only that it may not be hastily formed. Though the first proposal included, as you will recollect, that in future no Volunteer should be received but upon the condition

of his serving free of expense, the danger is that this will not be adhered to, as we see has happened at present, for all Volunteers were originally supposed to be of that description.

"The army question of limited service will require, I am afraid, strong measures to carry it through; and must therefore receive all the aid that you and the Cabinet can give me. I shall perhaps see the Duke of York about it again to-day. I will endeavour, also, to call in upon you, should you be at the Treasury."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, March 21. Palace Yard.—"I hope to learn verbally by the messenger that you are better to-day. I was sorry

that you could not be present in the Oriental Feast.

"You have not yet sent the papers which you proposed to communicate in confidence; but I know enough of the subject through Mr. Vansittart to be satisfied that, on the whole, the operations of the year will be less severe than the minds of our countrymen are prepared to expect. There are parts of the details (and especially those parts which relate to the new modelling of the collection, exemptions, and matters of that kind) on which it is difficult to express in writing all that may occur, but I will attempt it on Sunday if I should not have the advantage of seeing you.

"At the Committee of Council we have promised secretly two or three licenses for Spanish bills on Peru and Mexico, to the amount of about 40,000*l*. each, on condition that they shall be severally accompanied by British cargoes to that

amount.

"I shall send to you to-day or to-morrow a copy of the Report of the Crown lawyers on the St. Domingo question; they do not meet it fairly in all points; but they open a consideration to you 'whether we ought to license that trade

from Tortola and other islands.'

"The King's advocate has sent a very full and instructive report on the actual predicament of our discussions with the United States. I shall propose to the Board to refer the memorial of the American merchants, with that report, to Mr. Fox, and to send copies of the whole to your lordships for your information.

"Lord Sheffield is printing a long, violent (and most mistaken) statement against the whole system of licenses, and

deviations from the Navigation Act."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, March 23. Stable Yard.—"I send you a rough draft of the minute. Perhaps the middle clause might be wholly omitted, and after the said papers, might come in, under these impressions. Pray give me your advice, or whether you would have anything else altered, or added. I know so little

of his Majesty now, and was so unsuccessful in all my attempts to please him formerly, that I want help at every step."

Private. EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806 [March].—"The King will not come to town on Wednesday, but he told me that, if he was wanted, he would come on Thursday; and as I suppose it will be right for G. Ponsonby to be sworn of the Privy Council, and also to be presented on his appointment to be Chancellor of Ireland, which by that time will be sufficiently completed for the purpose, and as there may perhaps be some other business to be done, I had intended asking your opinion to-day at the Cabinet whether I should not write to the King to desire him

to come to town on Thursday.

"As you are to see Lord Lauderdale to-morrow, I will just mention what occurs to me on his letter. It may be very right to change the Advocate and Solicitor-General; but, if it be true that Mr. Blair is a man so respectable and so fit for the Bench, why not raise him to the present vacancy on the Bench for the purpose of introducing either Mr. Clerk or Mr. C. Hay (whichever may be most fit) to be Solicitor General. I take it for granted that, considering all circumstances, Harry Erskine must be Lord Advocate; though from the little I have heard of him, I do not know but there may be some objections to it.

"My general view of the line of conduct most advisable to pursue both with regard to Scotland and Ireland (and especially with regard to the law appointments in both countries) is that it should not be too much marked with the eagerness of party politics; and if, even on Lord Lauderdale's own suggestion, it be proper and right for me to write as he advises to the present Solicitor General, I cannot well convince myself that the course I have pointed out above will not be the

fittest to pursue."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, March 24. Palace Yard.—"The contents of the proposed budget so far as I can form a judgment from a short and general statement, will be satisfactory to our countrymen and discouraging to the enemy. Perhaps even (with the aid and impression of this new naval advantage) it may bring forwards some proposal approaching nearly to the uti

possidetis.

"The raising of the Property Tax to 10 per cent. will be felt by many; but it is expected, and will be quietly taken. It marks however so strongly the unsound and partial principle by which small incomes are favoured and exempted, that I am almost sorry you have abandoned your first idea in that respect. And even now I much doubt whether the small incomes might not be subject to an amount equal to the

additional rate, or at least to some proportion. The produce would be considerable even taken at a low rate, and would have many collateral advantages. It would also ensure the estimate of the war taxes at 20 millions (including 2 millions of calculated arrears). Without that help I expect

the estimate to be taken too high.

"In raising the interest for the loan, you have it fully in your power to bring to account about 80,000*l. per annum*, already gained by the redemption of the Land Tax, and not yet brought to public account. That gain is progressive; and I am now receiving almost as many notices of sales by corporate bodies as at any period since the commencement of the commission.

"I believe that we must propose to you from the Board of Trade a new arrangement of the duties on thread lace. It is urged by the manufacturers and recommended by Mr. Frewin. They propose to add to it a license to be taken out by all vendors of lace. If it should appear likely to produce 20,000l. or 25,000l. per annum, would it be worth adding to the Budget?

"Not having seen the subsidy account, and not recollecting accurately the vote of last session respecting it, I cannot guess whether you underrate the arrears at 1,000,000l. In truth it must depend on pretensions still floating at Berlin,

Petersburg and other places abroad.

"Should there not be an addition of 90,000*l*. for the interest of the three millions to the Bank? That loan might reasonably have been continued without interest.

"A sum of 414,000*l*. was voted last year to discharge American arrears; as there is not any article to that purpose

this year, I presume that the whole claim is cleared.

"It seems possible that the deficiency of ways and means of 1805 may be understated. But this will in some degree depend on the surplus of the Consolidated Fund on the 5th of next month, which ought to be 2 millions for the current quarter, in order to make good what it was taken for.

"Exclusive of the interest on Exchequer Bills which is stated at 1,000,000*l*., there was in the last year's budget an allowance of 600,000*l*. for discounts on loans and lotteries,

and other services not voted.

"I have not seen any statement of the amount of the unfunded debt."

CABINET MINUTE.

1806, March 24. Downing Street.

Present.

Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Earl Spencer, Earl of Moira, Lord Grenville, Lord Ellenborough, Lord Henry Petty, Mr. Grey, Mr. Windham, Mr. Fox. "Your Majesty's confidential servants having taken into their most serious consideration the papers produced to them by Mr. Fox, most humbly submit to your Majesty that it might appear inconsistent with the uniform declarations made by your Majesty's Government since the commencement of the present war, to pass unnoticed the opening for negotiation contained in the said papers. The principal object to be attended to seems to be, on the one hand, to guard your Majesty's Government from the imputation, which the enemy endeavours to cast upon it, of being averse to peace on any terms; and on the other to shew that, in discussing that important subject, your Majesty will never be forgetful of the dignity of your Majesty's crown, of the honour and interests of your Majesty's allies, or of the general welfare of Europe.

"Under these impressions they most humbly submit to your Majesty that it may be proper that Mr. Fox should write to M. Talleyrand a letter conformable to the draft which

accompanies this minute." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, March 24. Camelford House.—"I am aware of your difficulty at the Privy Council, and I fear that you have no discretion. I wish the Law Lords could bring themselves to think otherwise.

"The Budget will, I think, do pretty well without the Land Tax money, or the [blank], and these may perhaps

come in as helps another year.

"I have little doubt that we shall ultimately have above a million to pay as arrears of subsidy, but hardly within the present year; nor are the amounts sufficiently liquidated to enable us as yet to charge auditors* with more. The vote of credit may well cover a part of this further payment.

"The three millions, not being a permanent but a floating charge, will only add so much to the expenses of the years of war, and may, I think, therefore be fairly left to be covered by Exchequer Bills, and to fall each year as a deficiency on the preceding year. We could not lay on permanent taxes

till it is funded.

"I have heard nothing of any further American claims, and the commission is closed. The discount on loans operates pro tanto in reduction of interest on Exchequer Bills, and may, I presume, be fairly included in that calculation, especially as we provide so largely for the other services. I enclose a statement of the unfunded debt. Pray return it to me. Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 24. Pall Mall.—"I had a long talk in the House to-day with Fox, Lord Henry, and FitzPatrick, and

^{*} Ourselves ?

the result was that I should state to you our difficulties, leaving to you to consider in what manner they should best

be compromised.

"The Budget I take to be a fixed point, and which can, on no account, be deferred beyond Friday; but a great embarrassment then arises; first, that with all the exertion possible, there may be a doubt about the estimates being ready by that day; and next, that the estimate then produced, will have an effect which no one had before adverted to, of publishing prematurely almost the whole of our Volunteer plan. This is not inconvenient merely as an anticipation of my speech, but because it is disadvantageous to proclaim a measure certain to produce a considerable reduction in the Volunteer force, before it is known what the measures are by which this effect will be, in part counteracted, and in

part compensated.

"It seemed to be their wish therefore, as it certainly should be mine, that the Budget should be moved without the army estimates; a course of proceeding which, though not usual, is said not to be without precedent, nor to be liable to any serious objection. If this can be done, it will in every view be highly desirable. My motion in the meanwhile, in order that it may be brought on before the recess, will require that not a moment should be lost both in completing our talk with the Duke of York, and in stating what is necessary to the King. If I understand you rightly, it is necessary for this latter purpose that I should make a sort of abstract of what is proposed, to be produced to the King either in the form of a minute of Cabinet, or in some other way. This ought to be ready for the King, I presume, on Wednesday; yet how shall we have been able to get over our conversation with the Duke of York by that time, if you are engaged, as I understood you, all to-morrow?

"I see here the evils which I have caused by not having pressed forward more these conversations with the Duke of of York; but the question now is how to get free of them. Three things seem to be necessary before I can venture to give a notice; first, that we should have given to the Duke of York an opportunity for the conversation which he wishes; secondly, that we should have done what is necessary in respect to the King; and thirdly, that Grey should have been able to determine what may be proper with respect to an increase of pay in the navy; for it seems certain (and something which Fox had heard subsequent to our parting to-day in Downing Street, led to the same conclusion) that the silence of the army will not last longer than the day when the motion is brought forward; and that, if nothing is then said of an increase of pay to officers, representations

to that effect will be coming in from all quarters.

"If we can manage to settle these points by Friday, a notice given on Friday will be sufficient for Wednesday;

and there is no reason, I suppose, why the day before the recess will not be as good as any other. I think it is really of consequence that we should avoid, if possible, the publishing so large a part of our plan in the estimates."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 24. Park Lane.—"It has occurred to me upon a more full consideration of the proposed motion of Mr. Huddlestone (or Thornton) for the rejected invective of the Court of Directors, that the most desirable mode of proceeding would be to settle the decision of Government upon the subject before the motion is made, by a discussion

between yourself and Mr. Fox.

"Great embarrassment and difficulty have already arisen in the House of Commons from the want of concert on the Indian questions; a large majority of the House I believe to be disposed to pursue stedfastly whatever course of policy you may think fit to determine upon all these questions; and the time is now come when it is absolutely necessary to fix the course which you mean to pursue.

"It is therefore desirable in the first instance to induce Mr. Huddlestone and Company to postpone their motion until you can have leisure to read the invective, and to decide whether you will admit such a paper upon the table of the House of Commons; and, if you do admit it, under what circumstances

and in what manner that concession shall be made.

"From what I have heard of the paper (for I have never seen it) I am disposed to think that it is inadmissible upon every principle of justice and policy; and that the most wise course would be either to induce the parties to abandon the motion, or, if that be found impracticable, to reject the motion even upon a division.

"I am satisfied that if sufficient notice were given, and that you decided the propriety of rejecting the motion, it would be rejected upon a division, even if Mr. Fox should not make up his mind upon the question in the manner most

desirable.

"But if the paper is to be produced, it appears to me indispensable to the ends of ordinary justice, that, previously to the production of it, the Board of Control should call upon me to state in an official form my replies to the several imputations contained in it, and should submit those replies to the House together with the invective; otherwise a prejudice may be created, entirely contrary to the principles of justice.

The paper, I understand, embraces every part of my government from the hour of my arrival in India; and it may therefore be impossible for me to reply to it, without producing to Parliament every proceeding of that government for nearly eight years. This result must lead to the necessity of a Committee upon the whole subject of India, and the consequence must be an inquiry of two or three years.

"You will judge whether such a consequence be desirable either for the public, or for my personal ease, and whether it will not be more wise to reject the paper altogether.

"The motion stands for to-morrow."

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, March 24. Camelford House.—"You know I wrote to Lord Minto, Saturday, to desire him to send me a copy of the paper in question, and, in the mean time, to have the motion postponed if possible, to afford time to consider the paper before it was moved for. I have not heard from him since, so I suppose the paper is preparing, and that some such communication has been, or will be, made to Mr. Huddlestone.

"I have, however, written to him again to ask. Till I see the paper I can, of course, say nothing to it; but I certainly see much difficulty in resisting such a paper after what has been granted. I shall judge better of this when I see it." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL TEMPLE.

1806, March 24. Camelford House.—"I had some talk Saturday evening with Wellesley about the papers you mention. My own impression was that it would be difficult to resist it; and that, in the mode of acceding to it, a sufficient slur would be thrown upon it by moving at the same time for the reasons given by the Board of Control for rejecting it; and observing that it shows only what sense of W[ellcsley's] conduct was not entertained, and what representation of it was not thought well-founded by those under whose orders it was his duty to act, and to whose opinions he was to conform himself.

"But I wrote to Lord Minto to desire that he would lose no time in furnishing me with a copy of the paper, and would apply for such a delay of Huddlestone's motion as would

afford time to consider the paper.

"Considering what has been given, it will be very difficult indeed I think to find a plausible ground for refusing this." Copy.

THE SAME to C. J. Fox.

1806, March 25. Camelford House.—"Mr. Wickham having at my desire seen the Swedish Minister on the subject of an application to the Treasury from him respecting a supposed arrear of Swedish subsidy, I send you the report of their conference, and I should be much obliged to you if you would direct the question to be looked into by some person in your Office who may afterwards converse with Mr. Wickham upon it." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, March 25. Dublin Castle.—" One of my first objects on my arrival here was to ascertain the relation, in which

the joint Post-Masters-General stand to the Government, in respect to the patronage within their department; and I find that they have gradually been permitted to establish such an independence of the Castle that the appointment to the post office in a country town was recently solicited as a matter of favour from Lord Ely, and was not obtained without some difficulty. It is obvious therefore that there should be a very explicit understanding with the new Post-Masters on this subject to secure the political influence of the Lord Lieutenant from any future encroachment of a similar nature. As any suggestion for curtailing the power of the Post Office will considerably add to the difficulty of treating with Lord Donoughmore, I must earnestly entreat you to have the kindness to see him, and to endeavour to bring the negotiation which has been commenced with him to a conclusion. should not ask you to undertake this trouble, if I did not feel strongly persuaded that the only chance of making any satisfactory engagement with him will be by your personal communication with him. By correspondence, I am convinced, we shall not advance a step with him; and I am in every point of view anxious that Government should have his support, if it can be obtained without a very unreasonable sacrifice. You will oblige me by acquainting me with the result of your interview, and if it should end in his acceptance of the situation of joint Post-Master, I will write the note he desires to secure to him his provision on the incidents of the revenue in the event of his retiring from office.

"Lord Ely died a few days ago, which leaves a vacancy in the order of St. Patrick. I found every thing here quiet, but have been able to do little yet in the way of business, as Marsden has been so ill that I have not had more than an hour's conversation with him. The Duke of Bedford

is expected to-morrow."

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 26. St. James's Place.—"I hope I need not tell you how highly gratifying to my feelings any such mark of your kindness and attention to me must be as that which is conveyed in your note just received; and I assure you, most sincerely, that you will not do justice to those feelings if you are not persuaded that I derive much more satisfaction from the expression your proposal conveys of your continued regard and friendship, than I could derive from the acquisition of any honours which the King could bestow. Having said this, I must however, I think, decline the distinction proposed for me. On a former occasion I declined the same offer, upon a good deal of eonsideration upon the subject; and that at a time when, as far as the value of such things go, the thing was of more value, because it was before the union with Ireland; and the same consideration ought, in my opinion, to prevail with me at this time, unless there were any special reason which could be adduced, which I confess does not occur

to me, to alter the case.

Postscript.—"Mr. Bagshaw, the High Sheriff of Derbyshire, will present himself to you to-day at the Queen's House to have the honour of knighthood conferred on him, having presented an address on the victory of Trafalgar. I have apprized the King of this."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, March 26.—"I entirely approve your idea, and indeed should approve any effectual plan for negativing the motions. No part of the papers in question is admissible on any ground of justice; and I am satisfied that, if you distinctly adopt the course now proposed, you will carry a large majority of the House with you.

"It is a matter of perfect indifference to me whether the members of the Secret Committee or of the Court of Directors approved the measures pursued in Oude. They were regularly communicated in their progress to the proper authority (the Secret Committee) and confirmed by that authority.

"I hope you will be able to settle the arrangement with Fox, and that you will then take measures for a full attendance to-morrow, and at once to end this branch of the attack. Lord Castlereagh and the former Board of Control (although they granted a former paper of a description in some degree similar to those now required) are prepared fully to support you in refusing the papers now required. Their authority may certainly be used against their own precedent.

"I understand that the Board of Control have other copies of the papers; I wish to retain them in order to prepare replies to the libels which they contain. This work must occupy some time, but nothing can be more extravagant or unjust

than the imputations."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, March 27. Windsor Castle.—"The King approves of the honour of baronetage being conferred on Mr. Morris, Mr. Ramsay, and Mr. Lubbock, in addition to those whose names were mentioned to him yesterday by Lord Grenville. His Majesty also approves of Lord Grenville's sending a warrant for an annual pension of five hundred pounds to General Vernon."

LORD SPENCER to THE SAME. Private.

1806, March 28.—"The appointment of which Sir John Stuart complains was made in consequence of the resignation of Mr. Ramsay, the late Sheriff Depute, which was delivered to me by Lord Lauderdale who procured that resignation, I believe entirely with a view of making an opening for Mr. Gillies, lately appointed the Prince's Advocate in Scotland. Mr. Gillies was accordingly appointed, and I was not aware that Sir John Stuart had anything to say upon the subject. Lord Fife had indeed applied to me for a relation of his, a Mr. Duff; but Mr. Gillies' claims appeared to be preferable, as he is the person whom the Lord Justice Clerk, in the letter he wrote to me on the subject of the appointment of the Advocate and Solicitor General, pointed out as the properest to be Solicitor General, though he was adverse to him in politics; and I have reason to believe that, next to Erskine and Clerk, he is the leading advocate on that side of the question.

"Sir John Stuart is not represented in either of the books in our possession as likely to come in again for Kincardineshire, the principal interest in that county being in the hands of Mr. Ramsay (late Burnet) the late Sheriff, and Mr. Adam, who, according to Lord Lauderdale, could bring himself in

if he chose.

"The only excuse than can be made to Sir John seems to be that it was an object with Government to avail ourselves of the first opening that offered in favour of Mr. Gillies."

LORD GRENVILLE to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, March 29. Camelford House.—"I have attentively considered the circumstances of the case respecting the grant made to the Duke of St. Albans, and, if I understand them right, they are such as could not authorize us (however desirous of complying with his wishes) in recommending to the King to grant a farther extension of the pension. The original grant of duties on logwood was for ninety-nine years, expiring. in 1803. This grant not having been carried into effect, Queen Anne granted to the then Duke in lieu thereof a pension of 1,000l. for his life, which has in like manner been granted to his successors respectively for their lives till 1789, when application was made to Parliament on the subject, and on the statement of these facts a Bill was passed authorizing the King to grant a farther prolongation of that pension for sixteen years, to expire in 1803.

"If this statement be correct, it is manifest that the question as to the continuance of the pension has been decided by the authority of Parliament, whose sense has been so clearly expressed upon it, that it cannot be proper for the King's servants to advise his Majesty to act in contradiction to it.

"I trust it is unnecessary for me to say that I should have been very happy to have done whatever I could with propriety on this subject, both out of respect to the Duke of St. Albans, and on account of the interest which your Lordship took in the success of his wishes upon it." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 30. Palace Yard.—"I send a copy of the proposed Indemnity Bill, and have taken the necessary

precautions to avoid any expressions or enactments that may alarm the sensibilities of the Commons.

"Perhaps you have not got the enclosed printed account. Number 2 is not immaterial to show that our British mercantile shipping maintains itself, notwithstanding that 100,000 sailors are employed in the King's ships; and that much of our carrying trade, necessarily, but very beneficially to us, goes in neutral bottoms.

"The annual real value of British produce and manufactures on the average of 5 years ending January 5, 1793, was 15,444,000l. For 5 years ending January 5, 1805 ... 24,600,000l.

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, March 30. [Pall Mall.]—"I have sent to put off our meeting to-morrow, no notice having in the meanwhile been issued, as I found that a meeting had been settled with you by Grey at the same hour on Fulton's business; and as it seemed doubtful whether any points remained to be decided for which a meeting of the Cabinet would be necessary. shall attend at Grey's and have an opportunity therefore of seeing you. I wish we may not have got into a scrape by resolving at all events to bring on the army business before the recess. If we forbear any mention of officers' pay, applications will pour in upon us without end, or at least so much be said upon the subject, as that the measure will lose all its grace. If we mention it, the navy must come in, and Grey has not yet had time to learn what ought in that respect to be done. I have been afraid to urge these considerations so much as I feel them for fear of appearing to be seeking delay for myself; but I am sure we had better have delayed the measure ever so long, than bring it in incomplete.

"The handsome letter, too, which I have just got from the King, would have made a propriety, I rather think, in having waited till after the recess. It may now possibly [be] too late.

"A difficulty of another kind has just occurred. In looking over the letter proposed to be sent to M. Rivière, I feel great doubt whether it does not express something different from what was our resolution. The letter goes to say that, if they will give up the point of the Hanoverians, we will give up all their prisoners here, receiving all ours in France. But that was surely not our meaning. Our meaning must have been that we would exchange, upon the principles of a cartel, the prisoners now here against English prisoners at this time in France, allowing them to count among the prisoners the English detained at the beginning of the war, but refusing to include the Hanoverians. I have put some words in pencil which, I think, brings it to that sense, and to what I presume, for I have not the means at this moment of getting at the

minute, must have been the true sense. It has further been suggested to me that, Bonaparte's name never having been introduced into Rivière's letter, it may be doubtful whether our letter ought to run in the King's name, and ought not rather to stand, as I had at first put it, in the mere name of the Ministers; following in that the precedent of the letters which I found upon similar subjects in the Office."

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, March 31. Clifford Street.—"Having just seen the military papers from Windham's office, I am quite sure that it is absolutely necessary to have a meeting of Cabinet, or that you should have a full and explicit communication with Windham previous to the discussion on Wednesday. I understood that the reduction of the June allowances to those of August had been agreed upon, as the preferable alternative; but Windham not only leans to the other, but does not seem to be aware that a decision has been taken on this point.

"I am unwell to-day, and wish to remain at home; but if you think my attendance in the House of Lords material,

I shall readily go there."

EARL SPENCER to THE SAME.

1806, [March 31]. London.—"I send you a packet I have just received from the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which I think ought to be circulated. I have, at the same time, received letters from both Lord Hardwicke and Lord Redesdale on the same subject which I do not propose to circulate, but will show you when we next meet; they are very strongly

expressed in the same view of the matter.

"I own I cannot find in anything that is here stated wherewithal to alter my opinion that it is impossible for us to renew the Suspension Act; but you will see that we must take the whole upon our shoulders, and it therefore is right, I think, to circulate these papers; and you may perhaps think it advisable to call a Cabinet for Sunday for this and any other matters that may occur.

Postscript.—" If you think these papers should be sent in

circulation, pray forward them."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, April 1. Camelford House.—"I had (a day or two after you set out) a pretty long conversation with Lord Donoughmore, in which the thing was, I think, brought as nearly to a point as a matter of that sort admits of. The explanation was verbal only, and must rest on that footing; but the understanding was that, although the applications from individuals were to be made directly to him, which

indeed is the case here, yet that in cases where Parliamentary interests were in question, he was to attend to the wishes of Government. Something must of course always depend on the manner in which these things are executed; and I should think you would do well to take some early opportunity of making to him some such accommodation, in order that our claim may not be weakened by disuse.

"He has therefore accepted the Post Office, understanding that he is to have the note about his pension, to be a Privy Councillor here, to have his brother at the Board, and not to

see any other person put at the head of both Boards.

"I take it for granted from what passed here that Lord Headfort is the person the Duke of Bedford will wish to have the blue ribbon, and I am not aware that there is any properer person; nothing shall, however, be said about it till we hear

from your side the water.

"Colonel Vereker has applied to me for the office of Constable of Limerick with the lands annexed to it, which he states were held by his family, who were removed to make way for the present occupant Mr. Cockayne. I could only tell him that I would write to you to beg you would inform yourself of all the circumstances of the business; and that if the thing appeared reasonable and proper to be done, I would support his application to the Duke of Bedford, but not otherwise."

Postscript.—"I have promised Lord Ormond that, as soon as ever the new Treasury Commission is out, his claim shall be put in due course of enquiry that it may, if possible, be brought forward this session. It relates, as I suppose you know, to his butlerage and prizage. Pray write to Newport

about it." Copy.

Private. The Same to The Same.

1806, April 1. Camelford House.—"In addition to my other letter of to-day, I find a memorandum respecting Mr. Odell, about whom, I believe, I spoke to you before you went. He wants an office for his son as promised by Mr. Pitt, and I promised you would converse with him on the subject.

"Lord Abercorn presses much for an answer about Judge

Fox.

"I wish you could suggest a fit person for the Irish Commission of Enquiry. Jackson says he cannot return there, and I know not whom else to send. Pole and Hawthorn have been suggested to me. What do you think of them? I incline as between them to the latter of the two; but I had rather find some one who is neither in Parliament nor in politics.

"We shall, I believe, provide for Ormsby by sending him out as judge to Prince of Wales's island where the India Company has an establishment. Lord Ch— will probably choose a friend of ours in his room. He, Lord C—, will, I believe, ask you for some living in due time for his brother."

Copy.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, April 1. Camelford House.—"I omitted to send the Duke of Bedford, as I promised before he left town, the lists I had received of objects which Lord Hardwicke desired to recommend to his successor. I now send it, though the Duke has probably received it from Lord Hardwicke himself. I also send you a copy of my answer.

"I have just seen Lord Mountnorris, who makes two requests. 1st, To be Custos Rotulorum of Wexford in the room of Lord Ely; and 2nd, to be considered as sharing the patronage of that county with Colclough, supposing the latter

to succeed.

"He explained to me that an understanding had been proposed to him by which he was to support Lord Ely at the general election for one member for Wexford, and was in return to have a friend of his brought in at Ross. To all this I could say nothing, being totally ignorant of county of Wexford politics, and having heard nothing from anybody about them.

"I hope you will not forget to send me as soon as you can the lists you promised me of county and borough interests to be considered in Ireland. Have the goodness to talk with the Duke of Bedford about Lord Mountnorris, and let me know what your opinion is upon his requests." Copy.

Private. C. Grey to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 1. Admiralty.—"I find a general increase of 10 per cent. upon all ranks in the navy above that of able seamen, would not answer. The petty officers, who are the most meritorious men in the fleet, and amongst whom it would be desirable to establish a gradation of classes, would, upon that principle, receive a smaller addition than the able seamen; and the licutenants would have only 6d. per day added to their present pay of five shillings. The captains also, at least those of the lower rates of ships, would find their present pay very inadequately increased. I have therefore thought it better to adopt the plan of a certain addition to the weekly or daily pay of all ranks below that of admiral, beginning with the ordinary and able seamen in the way we agreed upon yesterday. The addition of 10 per cent. to the personal pay of the admirals will answer very well. The whole additional expense in this mode will not exceed the yearly sum of 330,000l.

"I hear you are going out of town to-morrow or I should have proposed to submit to you this arrangement more in detail. If, however, you see no considerable objection to it according to this general statement, and it is necessary for Windham to announce to-morrow his intention of proposing an increase of the pay of the army, I might, at the same time, give notice of a similar intention with respect to the navy.

But I cannot help wishing you first to consider a little the expedience of giving this notice immediately. I apprehend the distribution can only be made by the King's order in Council, and the only way in which it can come before Parliament will be by a new estimate. Perhaps therefore it would be better to say nothing upon the subject till the order in council is ready to be issued, as any considerable interval of uncertainty and expectation might produce some inconvenience."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, April 1. Pall Mall.—"You will have got before this time, I hope, the heads of the Bill which I showed you yesterday. They should have gone to you last night. The abstract of the volunteer reductions I have directed likewise to be sent you. The expense of the additional pay in the second and third period to the soldiers actually subsisting will not be much. According to an average taken from the returns of twenty-one regiments, the amount of both on the infantry of the present army would be only 38,000l. If in the cavalry the men last longer, the period also will be somewhat higher. In cavalry and artillery the first period should not be less, I think, than ten; and I have written to propose that to Lord Moira.

"As it happens often, what has been long delayed is at last done in a hurry. I fail in bodily powers. I should have liked that we could have considered the question of allowing, among our privileges to soldiers, a right of voting in their county. Lord Ellenborough, you might have observed, was much inclined to it, taking care not to include Scotland. Might I venture to allude [to it] as one of the many things that might possibly be done. The great character, I think, of our measure is that it is capable of endless additions. You infuse of advantages and privileges quantum sufficit.

"I shall be in town about two o'clock, but I must sleep again out of town, as I did last night, to have a chance of getting what I shall have to say into any shape. I wish I had taken to this course before; though a long letter which I have had to write to the Duke of York has not left me the full benefit of my retirement. If you should, be at the

Treasury, I could step over to you, if necessary."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, April 1. Pall Mall, 8 o'clock, p.m.—"I am glad you had an opportunity of pointing out the article in question, though I think I should have remembered it. The copy

sent to you was from the original draft.

"The only Bills that I shall have to move for will be, I think: 1. a Bill to enable his Majesty more effectually to provide for the defence of the realm, being a new edition of the levy in mass Act.

"2. A Bill for the regulation of Chelsea Hospital, and making further provision for soldiers.

"3. A Bill to amend the laws relating to the militia.

"4. Leave to repeal the Additional Force Act; and this,

by the by, I suppose should come first.

"I don't know whether I stated to you in my note of this morning, what I did much at length in my letter to the Duke of York, that I continue strongly in favour of an allowance to persons retiring after the second period. Every man so lost to the service is, I am persuaded, a gain of many. It is the contrary rule that ruins us, namely, that no man is seen retiring from the service but with a mutilated frame or broken constitution. Vestigia nulla retrorsum. I can keep the question open, which it will be desirable to do on most of these points."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 1. Pall Mall, $9\frac{1}{2}$ o'clock p.m.—" I think the only way must be to talk 'about it and about it' without mentioning the words pay and officer together. But how near may one come? May I talk of the proposed increase to widows' pensions and to the compassionate list? should I only touch upon these among various boons by which Parliament may possibly think it right to show its regard for the army, but which, as they do not stand single, but would require to be considered in connection with many others, [had] better be postponed for the present. It is not easy to show, indeed, why, at a moment when we are proposing so many other more important changes, we should not be ready for this. But something will be done if we can show, when the applications come, that it is not in consequence of the applications that the increase is made, but that Government evidently had the intention previously. I will talk to Grey and Fox and do the best I can.

"I should be sorry to stop you from anything which I feel to be of such extreme importance to health, as the getting occasionally out of town. If anything very particular occurs, I will ride up to Camelford House before the time you

mention."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, April 2. Camelford House.—"Lord Grenville has the honour to submit to your Majesty warrants for granting to Colonel Dalrymple and Mr. Adam, in trust out of the droits of your Majesty's crown, the sums necessary to complete your Majesty's grant of twenty thousand pounds each to their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Clarence, the Duke of Kent, the Duke of Cumberland, the Duke of Sussex, and the Duke of Cambridge.

"The trustces are directed to apply these sums in the first instance to the discharge of any debts due by their Royal

Highnesses, with a special instruction respecting the arrangement of the affairs of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, which Lord Grenville will have the honour personally to lay before your Majesty when he has next the honour of attending

your Majesty.

"Lord Grenville also begs leave humbly to transmit for your Majesty's royal signature, if approved, the warrant for a new Commission for the Treasury in Ireland, at the head of which Lord Grenville's name is placed in conformity to the arrangements which he has already had the honour to submit to your Majesty, with a view to consolidate as much as possible the financial administration of both parts of the United Kingdom." Copy.

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 4. Stable Yard.—"I have a letter from his Majesty appointing a Council to-morrow at two o'clock at the Queen's palace; so I hope you will come, and if you would call here for half an hour on your way, it will be all the better. I forgot to tell you last night that, though Lord Spencer did not come to the Cabinet, I had mentioned the matter to him before, and he agreed in all we did. I think it clearly right, or rather unavoidable, to show some sense of the insult immediately, with a determination to receive favourably any palliation that may be offered, especially if it comes through the medium of Russia. I have not yet your answer."

Postscript.—"You will be glad to hear that notwithstanding my laving been unwell before, I am not the worse for last

night, and indeed now quite well."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, April 5. Eden Farm.—"I had the misfortune this morning to fall into a new novel by Madame de Genlis. It has great bulk and little merit; but an abundance of poisonings, prisons, subterraneous abodes, virtuous adulteresses; and so I suppose that I shall wade through it. In the meantime Colonel Thornton's foolish and impudent *Tour into Scotland* lies invitingly open, and I suppose that I shall sink

into that bog also.

"I must not, however, omit to inform you that, before I left Palace Yard, I settled with Lord Dartmouth, Mr. Groves, and a Mr. Craig of the Board of Works (Wyatt non est inventus), that the preparing of Westminster Hall shall be pushed forwards with all possible despatch. This is somewhat irregular, as the King's warrant cannot yet be given, but the circumstances require it; and it will rest with your lordships to secure to us his Majesty's approbation. I am not without hope that the whole will be finished about the 24th instant.

"If this cannot be accomplished, the inconvenience to the judges will be great; the noise of the carpenters and the counsel

cannot go forwards at the same time. Lord Ellenborough means to sit every morning at eight o'clock; and it happens to be the term in which there is the least pressure of business. Mr. Whitbread wrote to me on the 2nd instant to express an earnest anxiety that the Hall would be ready on the 29th; he concludes his note in the following words, 'I entertain a very sanguine expectation that the number of days to be occupied in the impeachment will be very few indeed.' I hear it is settled that Mr Whitbread is to open the business, that Mr. Romilly is to sum up, and that Mr. Whitbread is to reply, and that the other managers are not to speak.

"Upon the whole I submit to you whether it will be desirable to postpone the trial beyond the 5th May. It may even, if you should wish it, take place on the 29th instant. I desired Mr. Cowper to forward to you a very useful report on

'Proceedings by Impeachment.'

"I enclose a copy of the Indemnity Bill. Lord Sheffield is penning what he calls 'a demonstration that the whole system is crude, puerile, and inconsiderate'; and Mr. Rose is itching to make it an occasion for debates. I do not know that we can give a more harmless occupation to them.

"Mr. Windham's Bill will be the subject of some long discussions in both Houses; so far at least as I can judge from my son's report of what passed on Thursday. He adds that Lord Hawkesbury and company attended to the last,

and with apparent earnestness.

Confidential. "I am changing the speculation which I had privately formed that it would not be necessary, prior to another session, to take the benefit of a dissolution. I am at present convinced that it will become highly eligible to proceed to that extremity.

"The Dean of Christ Church is in town; perhaps your

lordship has seen him."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 6. Dublin Castle.—"As it certainly will, upon the whole, materially contribute to the convenience of Government to be upon good terms with the Hutchinsons, I derive much satisfaction from the result of your interview with Lord Donoughmore; and hope we shall not find him very un-

accommodating on points of Post Office patronage.

"The office of Constable of Limerick has lands annexed to it, which (or a part of which) I believe the Vercker family once rented; but with the exception of this circumstance, and the property which Mr. Prendergast Smyth (Col. Vercker's uncle) possesses in the vicinity of Limerick, I know of no particular pretensions Colonel Vercker has to the appointment. He, however, is a person, to whom it will be worth the while of Government to pay attention, whenever a proper opportunity may occur of showing him civility. At the same time I must apprize you that he generally voted with the late Government,

that he opposed the Union, and that to the best of my recollection he is rather anti-Catholic; and I therefore submit to you how far it might be politick to distinguish him by so strong a mark of predilection as to make a removal in order to open an office for him, when there are so many persons with far superior claims on Government, who must for a long period remain without provision. In this view of the subject, I confess I am apprehensive that the compliance with his application might be attended with jealousy and discontent amongst our friends; and the Duke of Bedford seems to be impressed with the same fear. Mr. Odell called on me in London soon after his conversation with you. His object is a seat at the Revenue Board for his son, or some other office of a similar value; and I told him that I should not fail to lay his request before the Lord Licutenant, but that at present no specific engagement could be made to him. At some future time I should hope there may be means of serving him, but I do not like to encourage too sanguine expectations in him, lest the Duke of Bedford should not have the means of

fulfilling them.

"Sir John Newport has written to me about the election for the county of Wexford. Mr. Colclough is, I learn from the Chancellor, to be supported by Mr. Carew, who withdraws his pretensions on this occasion. From all I can collect the Colclough interest is likely to prevail. The interest of Government is very little in that county, for Lord Ely had for a series of years almost the entire managing of it, and had the nomination of most of the offices in it. The most efficacious aid that could be given would be negotiating for Lord Mount Norris's and Sir Frederick Hood's interest; but I suspect they would ask a price for their support which would be quite incompatible with the means of Government. No one is to be more cautiously dealt with than Lord Mount Norris. He will be the more unreasonable too as Lord Valentia is, it is understood, to be one of the candidates. The Chancellor tells me that Sir Frederick Hood is desirous of being made a Privy Councillor, which would be quite inconsistent with the principle laid down upon that subject in the minutes given to the Duke of Bedford. Lord Mount Norris is in London, and I find from Sir John Newport that King was to see him.

"Lord Headfort has, I believe, been recommended by the

Duke of Bedford for the Blue Riband.

"It is much to be regretted that Mr. Jackson cannot continue his assistance to the Board of Enquiry, as the Commissioners are very shortly to draw up their report upon the department with which he is best acquainted. It is essential that his place should be filled by a person of experience in the transaction of revenue business in England, and, I am afraid, neither of the persons you mention have that qualification. I really am not able to suggest any one. Of the two you mention, Hawthorn seems the most eligible. I am however most

anxious for a man of greater conversance with the subject. "I have been able to do nothing hitherto in respect to the division of the Boards, as Lord Annesly and most of the commissioners are at the assizes. The Attorney General, who is well informed upon the revenue laws, and who is the only crown lawyer at present in Dublin, is of opinion that the division would by no means induce an immediate necessity for new modelling the revenue laws; and I therefore cannot help earnestly advising Sir John Newport to postpone any new legislative arrangement he may have in view till the next session, by which means he will have the opportunity of fully considering the details of it during the recess. My conversation with the Attorney-General convinces me that the subject will require much more deliberation than Sir John can bestow on it now.

"As I have heard nothing to the contrary, I presume you persevere in your intention of moving an address to the Crown to institute a royal commission to enquire into the state of the Church of Ireland; in which case I hope Dr. Duigenan may be prevailed upon, if spoken to by somebody of authority, to withdraw his Bill. Some of the clergy are, I understand, favourable to the Bill; but I am persuaded there would be a great diversity of sentiment on it, if it should be suffered to go on.

"I cannot conclude my letter without entreating you to explain Lord Proby's views on the county of Wicklow at the general election to Lord Fitzwilliam without delay. I am convinced you will find an immediate communication the securest mode of preventing future trouble and embarrass-

ment."

Postscript.—"I have omitted to mention that the Duke of Bedford will give the second living of 300l. per annum that falls within his patronage to Ormsby's brother. The first is promised to Sir William Burroughs' brother-in-law. This is a distant prospect therefore for Ormsby. The Chief Justice and Judge Fox have been upon their circuits ever since my arrival, and I can therefore have no communication with Fox till their return."

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 6. Stable Yard.—"I send you a letter of Lauderdale's with a memorandum of Adam's. If you approve the course of proceeding proposed, you will, of course, see the necessity of the meeting taking place on Tucsday. If an early hour could suit you it would be best for me, to enable me to get home by the evening; but, if not, I must stay till Wednesday. I send you an account of the news that came last night from India.

"By the way you should write to Lord Minto by the return of the messenger who carries this, to fix the time and place

of the meeting proposed,"

LORD GRENVILLE to C. J. Fox.

1806, April 6. Dropmore.—"I strongly feel all the difficulties of our situation with respect to the East India Company. Whatever may be most likely to promote Lord Lauderdale's appointment, I trust I need not say, I will most willingly do. But I cannot help fearing what is now proposed is more likely to obstruct than to facilitate that object. I had much conversation respecting it with Sir Francis Baring. His opinion clearly was that we should wait till after the elections, and then through confidential channels ascertain our means of success. Before I saw him I had, agreeably to Mr. Adam's recommendation, conversed with Grant, Sir H. Inglis, and Bosanquet; the two first declared themselves decidedly adverse, and the last gave me clearly to understand that he would go with the stream, and expressed his conviction that the thing would not succeed.

"How far we can shake this resolution by personal canvass after the elections I know not; but it surely cannot be wise that we should unnecessarily mix in these discussions the six Directors who are going out, and least of all the present Chairman, from whose hostility to a part of the government (on Lord Wellesley's account) I have little doubt that the

whole of the present difficulty has originated.

"I feel also much objection to the taking our stand at all on the point of the election of the Chairs. The hostile character of their conduct in this respect had not escaped me, but I consider it only as a part of the system they are pursuing in the House of Commons. If there could be any doubt before what that system is, Huddlestone's motion clearly proves that they consider all the Parliamentary proceedings now going on, as the triumph of the Court of Directors over the Board of Control, and of the system of governing India by the Company and its servants over that of naming political and public characters to that station.

"In the election to the Chairs the law has given us no control. With a body favourably disposed, it may have been useful (though I doubt it) to exercise the sort of influence in this choice that Lord Melville had established. But in a state of daily contest with them I should feel very unwilling to assert a claim which, we know, they will resist, and which

the law enables them to resist with success.

"After the elections, I have no doubt that we must vacate Barlow's appointment, and, either with the avowed intention of taking this step, or immediately after it is done, must formally and officially propose to them Lord Lauderdale's appointment as the deliberate recommendation of the King's government. As a part of their objections to his appointment is rested on a pretended unwillingness to recall Sir G. Barlow, the doing that business for them, and shewing at the same time a determination to resist in Parliament, as well as everywhere else, their attempt to resume the political authority

of which the law has divested them, may possibly overcome their opposition; or time may afford the means of opening channels of more amicable communication which, if practicable

without abandoning our object, is certainly desirable.

"Having thus stated to you my own view of the best course in this difficult and perplexing business, let me add I feel it to be, above all others, a case in which your opinion and Lord Lauderdale's ought to govern mine. If, therefore, you continue to wish that anything more should be done or said before the elections, let me know it, and I will most certainly be in town by eleven or twelve on Tuesday, either to meet the Directors at the Board of Control, if you still think it best to summon them there, or to talk with you and Lord Lauderdale about any other steps that may occur to you or him. But if it were possible, I should be glad that you could see Baring first; as there can be no doubt, I think, of his wish to promote our object, and his statements had great weight with me in forming the opinion I have stated to you.

"Under these circumstances I have, of course, not written to Lord Minto; but, if you think it necessary, you will be in time to do so even after you have seen Baring." Copy.

Private. EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 6. Wimbledon Park.—"I send for your private perusal the enclosed letter from Elliot, received by express this morning, and the accompanying papers which, though of no great importance (except perhaps in the case of the private importation of gunpowder) are sufficient to show that country to be (as Lord Hawkesbury's expression is) in an unsatisfactory state.

"I send to-night, by express, Dardis's letter (concealing his name) which you see corresponds very much with what

Elliot writes.

"I have received several official dispatches from the Lord Lieutenant, and among others one recommending the appointment of Bowes Daly and Thomas Sheridan to the office of Muster Master General; which I shall lay before the King, with a note stating it as a recommendation received from Ireland.

"The Duke of Bedford wishes much to have the next candidate for the representative peerage fixed upon. When we last talked of the subject, it seemed to be between Lords

Charlemont and Leitrim; which is to be preferred?

"I shall be in town for a few hours on Tucsday morning, but I think of sleeping here every night this week."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, April 7. Arlington Street.—"A despatch is arrived from Talleyrand upon which it is absolutely necessary to have a Cabinet to-morrow, Tuesday, so I have called one at $\frac{1}{2}$ past three. The tone and manner are everything that is civil and pacific, but there is an objection to what he calls

a congress, that is, to the admitting of Russia, though he admits the honour of our respective allies must be attended to. The answer seems obvious, namely, to hold pacific language, to enter into the argument; but to show the impossibility, considering our engagements with Russia, to treat without her participation in some stage of the negotiation.

Postscript.—"The papers are so long that I have not had time to get them copied to send you. I found them when I came home from the Mansion House, which was not

till 12."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, April 7. Eden Farm.—"Mr. Craig of the Board of Works was here yesterday, and Mr. Groves has sent a full written report to me this morning: I infer from the whole that the preparations will be completed on Wednesday or Thursday fortnight; and this point will be ascertained before

we meet at the House on Monday next.

"Is there not some inaccuracy in the proclamation? The words are, 'No vessels shall be permitted to enter and clear out for any of the ports of Prussia until further orders.' I apprehend that the restriction should be extended to all the ports of the Weser and Elbe, and to some other ports to the south of the Baltic: otherwise we shall be liable to lose many vessels in places under French influence though not Prussian. I mentioned this to-day to Mr. Vansittart, who happened to call here from Blackheath; and I found that he saw it in a similar point of view."

Private. "This German interlude in the progress of the continental subjugation is a serious consideration in many points of view. It will in the meantime contribute to conciliate the King's mind towards his new government, and also to lessen any leaning towards the new opposition, if they should take up this question as they have taken up every

other.

"The American question is certainly the most important of the moment: I take for granted that it is under the full consideration of the Cabinet. I have long thought that the prejudices or habitual opinions of some leading civilians at the Cockpit tend to inflame that discussion more than in political wisdom is desirable.

"I have received an application to-day for the establishment of a whale fishery on the coast of Africa, under a factory which was first instituted when we were heretofore in possession of the Cape, and afterwards continued by the Dutch. I

presume that it will be right to continue it."

Private. The Same to The Same.

1806, April 8. Eden Farm.—"I wish to be peak a few minutes of your attention to a business which sooner or later

will come before you officially, unless your Government should be shorter-lived than I trust it will be, amidst the overpowering sweets and softness of the state-bed of roses. I do not know whether you have happened to advert to the annual report of the 'Proceedings of the Commissioners for regulating, directing, approving, and confirming all sales, and contracts for sale, by corporate bodies for the purpose of redeeming their Land Tax.' Those reports were given with an implied claim to consideration in the eventual close of the Commission.

"When Mr. Pitt in 1799 desired me to preside at that Commission, and to undertake the conduct and duties of it, we were quite uncertain to what degree of trouble and responsibility it might lead. I desired to have the assistance of Lord Glenbervie: he was appointed accordingly, and I have derived essential advantage from his legal knowledge,

labours, and perseverance.

"Mr. Pitt, Mr. Addington, Lord Alvanley, and Sir William Wynne were also in the Commission (honoris causa), but they never attended after the first meeting. It soon appeared that the duties to be discharged would be great and long. The whole correspondence with the corporations, bishops, clergy and others passed through me, and under my cover. Our meetings at the Land-Tax Office were frequent, and in every period of the year. All the conveyances (many being of a most complicated nature) were settled by us. Mr. George Harrison, our counsel, and the Messieurs Young, our secretaries, will bear testimony to our difficulties, several of which were stated to Parliament, and remedied by explanatory acts and enlarged powers. All our proceedings are recorded, and must ultimately be deposited in some place to be appointed for the purpose.

"And now, at the end of somewhat more than six years, we have settled and confirmed above 2,000 sales and conveyances; and, so far as we yet know, with perfect accuracy, and with great benefit to the corporations, and to individuals, and to the public. Many applications have been rejected,

but on grounds in which the parties acquiesced.

"The amount of money received for the sales has been about a million sterling.

"The stock purchased for the redemption of land-tax is about 1,600,000l.

"The gain to the public by what we have done is about 180,000l.

And the whole annual expense for secretaries, clerks,

and Office has been about 1,580l.

"The duty to be done is now become short and easy. All our rules and conditions of sale, and our forms of conveyance are settled and generally known. The sales too are less frequent, and novel cases seldom occur. I fear, notwithstanding, that we cannot yet close the commission without inconvenience to individuals and to the public.

"I incline to think with Lord Glenbervie that our report to Parliament in next month (the usual time for making it) should mention what I have last stated; and should at the same time, or previously, be submitted to the Treasury.

"The Speaker had the kindness some time ago to furnish me with many precedents showing the unvaried practice of the House of Commons in similar cases of Parliamentary commissions when nearly closed. And he has since added other precedents. They seem to lead to an address to the King to make, from the balances acquired by the public, such compensation as may be thought reasonable.

"I am sorry to have given this interruption to you. the business is not immaterial to me in the contrasted circumstances of a large family and a small fortune. Still it is my first object to seek only what is right in itself, and also decorous

in every fair opinion.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 9. Eden Farm.—" If it should not be convenient to you to be at the House of Lords on Monday next, you will probably approve of my appointing the impeachment committee (in consequence of what you have already stated) to sit on the Tuesday or Wednesday, when you will propose the course of proceeding, and will receive the report of the surveyor-general of the Board of Works, who must be ordered to attend. In sending to him the orders for preparations, I apprised him that his attendance would be required; but I believe that he is still at Font Hill.

"If it be expedient to make concessions to the United States, would it not be desirable to bring the considerations forwards as soon as possible, in the form of an avowed suspension of the general system, and as a measure complying with the novel circumstances of the world, but not abandoning the ancient principles and usages of the laws of war and of nations. The fatal results and mismanagements of the Austro-Russian campaign extend their mischiefs to all our most distant interests, and seem to reduce our speculations to the possibility of an insecure and expensive peace, on the ground

of a mutual retention of conquests.

"In the meantime smaller objects must not be neglected. It is surely desirable to encourage and multiply our licenses as much as possible for the export of British produce and manufactures to the Spanish settlements and to St. Domingo;

the latter has not yet been done.

"You have sent to me the papers proposing a 'bonus' to the public for a British insurance charter; but you have not intimated any opinion. I have summoned Sir Frederic Eden and others to the committee of Council on Friday s'ennight. I understand the suggestion to be that any insurance company paying 100,000l. shall be allowed the competition of marine insurance; and that the Globe Office is ready to pay that sum. The individual underwriters, and the two exclusive companies will oppose such a measure; but the mercantile body ought on every right and solid principle to support it."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, April 10. Camelford House.—"Mr. Stanley, an Irish barrister, is strongly recommended by Lord Ormonde, to whom he is related by marriage. I have promised him that you will hear his story. His case seems really a hard one, but I see no means of relieving him. His object is to be appointed Chief Justice of Upper or Lower Canada on a

vacancy.

"This was offered him (as it appears) by Pitt, but he then refused it. He would prefer being a judge in India, but that I told him I saw no chance of doing for him; for, first, there is no vacancy; and secondly, if there was, I much doubt whether he would be the man. But I really believe if the others were vacant, or could be opened for him, you would do a good act by sending him there. You will however hear his story, and that is all I have promised for." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 10. Eden Farm.—"'The planters connected with, and having property in the colonies of Demerara, Essequibo, and Berbice' desire to have a conference with me on Monday next at Whitehall, respecting the order of Council of the 15th August last to restrict the importation

of negroes into those colonies.

"The settlements above mentioned, and more especially Trinidad, will, I find, be excluded from the arrangement for the supply of salt fish from Newfoundland and the North American colonies, unless, by an order of Council or some other mode, we can direct and authorise those respective possessions to find a fund for paying the proposed bounties. The Trinidad agent has sent to me a strong memorial on this subject, and I have stated the consideration to Mr. Windham through Sir George Shea. Perhaps, in a political view, it would be desirable to give some constitution to those valuable conquests; and not to hold them as if we, of course, meant to give them up.

"Mr. Mellish, on the part of the London merchants trading to Germany, has sent to me a very proper communication, that on the first news of the detention of vessels a general meeting had been advertised; that on better reflection the meeting had been postponed." And now I have reason to believe that no step will be taken without the previous

approbation of Government.

Mr. Vansittart dined here yesterday, and we looked fully into the question about warehouses at Liverpool. It does not appear to us to be affected by the 45th George III. ch. 87;

but to rest entirely on the 43rd George III, ch. 132; and on that part of the 10th section which enables the King, by order in Council, to do what the Liverpool people ask, 'if it shall appear that doeks, wharfs, and warehouses shall have been built and erected within such port, complete, fit, and proper in every respect for the landing and reception of such goods, wares, and merchandise'; after which the order in Council must be published three times in the Gazette. The first object therefore is to refer to the Commissioners of the Customs to report 'whether warehouses have been erected as described.' This might have been referred to the Customs in the first instance by the Treasury: but Mr. Vansittart agreed with me that it would save time if I should write today to Mr. Frewin: and I have accordingly as from the Council Office, and have desired to have his answer on Monday.

"Mr. Vansittart suggested to me yesterday that it might be practicable to apply the lottery system to accelerate and extend the redemption of the Land Tax. If such an operation eould be managed without affecting the other lotteries, it would be very material, and would withdraw much stock out of the market. In the meantime I drew his attention to a more confined point which I wish to submit to you. Would it not be a most beneficent and proper measure in respect to the Church to authorise the Lords Commissioners for approving sales to lay out the money gained to the public by the sale of Church lands, in the redemption first, of small portions of land tax charged on the very small livings which have no possible fund for redemption; and secondly, to make good as to livings of a class somewhat higher, the redemption of land tax in livings which cannot find glebe or titles [tithes?] proper to be sold of a sufficient amount to complete the whole of their redemption.

"I conceive that in the first class we could give a real relief to 1,000 or 1,500 small livings; and that it would encourage the bishops, colleges and others, to proceed with their

redemption."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, April 11. Dublin Castle.—" Enclosed is a letter which I received yesterday from the primate, and which, by the Lord Lieutenant's desire, I have acknowledged, stating that it should be immediately transmitted to you. Within a few hours after it reached me, the post brought me a note from Sir John Newport, by which I am glad to learn that the regal visitation is resolved on, as it is only through a previous and careful enquiry into the circumstances of the Irish Church that any well-matured and adequate correction of the irregularities that prevail in it can be obtained. You, if I recollect right, expressed an intention of having the commission prepared by the civilians in England, and afterwards sent hither for further consideration. Whenever it may

arrive, the Lord Lieutenant, I believe, proposes submitting it in the first instance to the primate, as it is of importance, so far as may be practicable, to secure his concurrence; and he has certainly manifested more disposition to communicate with the Duke of Bedford than with any former Lord Lieutenant.

"Fox is returned from the circuit, and I had a short conversation with him yesterday, which I am to renew to-morrow. At present I do not know how far he will be disposed to accede to the proposition I was authorized to make him. The Chief Justice, with whom I should most wish him to advise, is not

yet come to town.

"My time has been, as you will probably have learnt from Lord Spencer, for several days past entirely occupied by endeavouring, in conjunction with the Chancellor, to compose the discussions which subsist in the Catholic body. It would have been most desirable for the real interests of the Catholics that there should have been but one address to the Lord Lieutenant, comprising the sentiments of all the descriptions of that communion; but, owing to the distractions that prevail among them, this is an object we cannot obtain. The idea of addresses from delegates is, I trust, effectually discountenanced."

Enclosed.

Private. The Archbishop of Armagh to W. Elliot.

1806, April 8. Armagh.— "When I had the honor of conversing with you in Dublin, I mentioned that, sometime previous to the Duke of Bedford's arrival in Ireland, I had requested the Archbishop of Cashel to inform Lord Grenville that if he had any objection to the residence Bill proposed by Dr. Duigenan, we should endeavour to prevail on that gentleman to abandon it. Lord Grenville has objected to the Bill as premature, and Dr. Duigenan has consented to abandon it; but I know not whether he will abandon it without making and printing a speech.

"I take this opportunity of stating to you, and through you to his excellency the Lord Lieutenant, that the bishops in this country are entirely destitute of power to enforce residence, and therefore ought not to be blamed or deemed

responsible for the non-residence of the clergy.

There is no Irish Act of Parliament which enforces residence; and the canon law by which the Bishops have hitherto enforced it, is now rendered useless by two recent decisions of the Court of Delegates; a court composed of judges and masters in chancery. Both the causes which were thus decided were probably tried for the express purpose of ascertaining whether the bishops had, or had not, the power of enforcing residence. One of these causes was pending in its progress through the different courts near seven years; the other near five years, at an expense of five hundred pounds to the bishop. Here then is an end to the canon

law for any practical purpose. For it is wild to suppose that bishops will henceforward act upon the canon law, which may involve them in a chancery suit of long duration, productive of all the trouble, vexation, and expense incidental to such legal contests. It is, therefore, now generally understood that we have no legal means to enforce residence, and that clergymen may or may not reside as they think proper.

"This notion has already produced its natural effect. Even in my own diocese, in which residence has been as perfect as in any English diocese with which I am acquainted, I begin to feel the evil it occasions, and have received letters from several clergymen, since the decision of these causes, stating that they mean to live in England; some of them on pretence of educating their children, others on pretence of ill-health; nor shall I be much suprised to find, at my next visitation, that many more have abandoned their livings without even

the formality of a letter.

"The whole discipline of the Church indeed, is involved in the question of residence. For I know not how we are to enforce any kind of discipline, if the parochial clergy may, without reproach or inconvenience, abandon their houses and live wherever they please. Nor shall we be able to proceed in building churches and houses. In the ten years preceding 1802, I believe that about eight houses and four churches were built annually. In the last two years we have made (or have under consideration) grants for building near sixty houses and twelve churches. But how can we hope that any house will be built in time to come, or that any clergyman will be induced to subscribe the papers which he must subscribe before we can commence building? Where a man knows he must reside, he will put himself to some inconvenience to procure a comfortable residence, and had rather submit to the trouble of superintending the building a house, and the expense of fitting it up and furnishing it when built, than pay a yearly rent for a miserable lodging; but if he knows that residence is optional, he will most assuredly decline such trouble and expense. This matter is rendered more disagreeable to us by the comparison so often made between the Established Church and the various sects in Ireland, as to the point of residence; the effects of our imperfect discipline, and the solid advantage they derive from the system which they have adopted. They not only have the power to enforce residence, but every day exercise that power. If a Roman Catholic Priest, or a Dissenting Minister neglects his duty he is instantly punished or removed; and this even in cases, which would be deemed hard in the House of Commons, where the congregation is extremely small, and the salary extremely scanty. Whereas, if a clergyman of the Established Church, possessed of a large Protestant parish, an excellent house, and an income of two or three thousand pounds, thinks fit to desert his charge, he may do so with impunity.

"I am no strenuous advocate for the Bill which Dr. Duigenan proposed; still less am I inclined to approve of any warm, unauthorised, language which he, in a moment of passion, may have used; but I must assert, what I firmly believe, that the Church of Ireland cannot subsist even a few years, unless some measure be adopted to remedy the evil of which we complain.

"It is, indeed, most manifest to me that the subversion of the establishment is not only certain, but at no great distance, without means are found to enforce the residence of the clergy, at least in those parishes where there is now a church, a parsonage-house, and a Protestant congregation.

"Our wants are extremely pressing, and we cannot safely wait the issue of a regal visitation. Such regal visitations have always taken up much time, and to accomplish their object must necessarily take up much time. The various minute points which must be investigated with great care, and the various difficulties which always obstruct inquiries of this kind, must render the progress of the commissioners extremely slow and dilatory. You well know the difficulty of ascertaining truth in this country, and how often men of high rank or great fortune, influenced by interest or prejudice, assert with confidence what unquestionable evidence is afterwards found to contradict. Nothing can safely be taken upon trust; for even the sanction of an oath here often adds little to the weight of testimony. Nor do I believe it would be prudent to postpone this measure till houses are built in every parish. If the clergy do not reside till that period, the houses which have already been provided in more than half of the benefices in Ireland must fall into decay for want of occupancy, and the different congregations will become Dissenters. Nay, I am fully persuaded that, in far the greater part of those parishes in which there are no houses, no houses can ever be built; for no land on which to place them can be procured. It seems to be the general opinion that we want only money. Money would certainly have its use: but even money will not remove all difficulties, or enable us to build houses in many of the most important parishes in Ireland. Besides we want character, and character is only to be obtained by an exact discharge of those duties which the public expect us to discharge. Deprive us of the means of discharging them, and you deprive us of character; for it would be imprudent, and perhaps impossible to make the public acquainted with the peculiar circumstances of our situation. We naturally wish, however, to stand fair in the opinion of his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant, and not to be blamed by him for omitting to do that which the law does not permit us to do. I must, therefore, again request you to inform his Grace the Duke of Bedford, that in my opinion we have no legal power to inforce residence; and express to him my hope that Government will not hereafter deem us responsible for the residence of

the clergy, the neglect of discipline, and the various other evils which non-residence will surely generate."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 11. [Pall Mall.]—"I told you of Teirncy's refusal, but thought it too late, when last we parted, to say anything about a successor. Hippcsley is ready, and latterly, I understand, eager. He is likewise very well qualified for the situation; but I have made no positive offer to him, wishing to know first whether you have any one else that you are desirous to recommend. Let me only urge you that it may not be a friend from the north. There should be some part of the world where an Englishman or Irishman may have fair play. If a military commander only were wanted, and Baird could be put somewhere else, I should like very well to see Simcoe there. Sir Alured Clarke would be a very good man, and one whom I should be glad to oblige; but I don't know that he is desirous of it.

"With respect to Ireland, Lord Hutchinson, I find, has another object which he would like much better, should the occasion arise; an appointment with any combined army that might take the field. The Russians, he conceives, upon some former occasion were desirous that he should have been

with them.

"Having talked to him upon this latter subject, and conveyed to him indirectly the difficulty that I felt about Ireland, would there be any objection to my endeavouring to learn from Lord Harrington what he feels about Ireland. Lord Cathcart is however, in my opinion, the best for Ireland.

"There is a question of some importance that has been stated to me, in consequence of what I find has been doing at the Council about opening the trade to some of our West Indian islands. The Russians would be willing to undertake an expedition against Martinico and Guadeloupe. Is there any objection, seeing that we have so little prospect of taking them for ourselves? The troops that would be employed for the purpose might be those at present in the Mediterranean. But these they might be required to replace. Upon the subject of the Mediterranean, I incline strongly to the opinion that something should be immediately done in pursuance of the ideas stated by Triscan; but secrecy is of so much importance that, till the measure should be resolved on, I have forborne to state anything even to the Duke of York. The troops now going out to Craig may furnish the means, and the officer to be chosen might be Spencer or Ludlow. Sir Sydney Smith should be the navy officer; to whom, by the way, in another view I want to give a commission, if it depends upon me, of consul-general to the Barbary States; or else to procure him one from Fox, similar to what he had in the last war. The Barbary States want management and conciliation, and no one so fit for that as Sir Sydney.

Gregory, I find, is not supposed to have these conciliatory qualities. I am still to seek therefore for some very fit man

for Algiers.

"The Duke of York has beat us, Fitz Patrick and me, on some subordinate points; in a way too that I feel impatient of. There is a grand point which we shall have to contend, but which must be carried, about the Hanoverian troops. The feeling is to keep them here, under the notion of future continental service, while all the destructive stations are to be supplied by British. A more unmaintainable notion cannot be set up.

"Mr. Stanley's case is only hard as a professional speculation that has not succeeded. It is damnum sine injuria, or, if injuria, the injuria of another Government. The only

question is of the force of his friends."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, April 12. Dropmore.—"I received this morning your letter of the 6th. Lord Donoughmore's business shall now immediately be carried into effect as far as depends on us on this side of the water. If Vereker comes to me again I will only refer him to you.

"Odell's wishes, I take it for granted, you will keep in mind; and from what you say I should hope they may be gratified.

"I wrote to you in my last to explain Lord Mountnorris's views and requests as to the county of Wexford. Perhaps, if there is not a strong hope of carrying both Colclough and Carew for the next election, it may be worth encouraging Lord Mountnorris's proposal, provided he will enter into explanations as to the person to be brought in for Ross. I am told that Sir F. Flood manages Lord Mountnorris, and, if so, he probably is the intended member for Ross. How far could he be depended on?

"As I can find no satisfactory successor for Jackson, I will try if he can be sent over for a few months again. But then

that cannot be till after our tax bills are passed.

"I will speak to Newport to postpone any plan for altering the revenue laws till the subject can be considered together

and deliberately.

"I saw the Archbishop of Cashel and Duigenan; the latter consented to withdraw his bill, or rather to let it drop silently; but, since they were with me, I have seen the returns printed by order of the House of Commons to an order of last session, for a state of the residence [and other particulars] of the Irish clergy; and that is so full, that I have some doubt what more could be got by a visitation, except in the case of a few defective returns, which might just as well be supplied by a fresh order of the House.

"Pray order that return to be sent to you, and sec whether you do not think it affords full materials to ground any proceeding upon. If it is so, we may spare ourselves the

trouble, and the Irish bishops the alarm that a visitation must create; and we may proceed on our own plans as soon

as we can mature them.

"I much doubt whether Lord Fitzwilliam's views and Lord Carysfort's in Wicklow can be brought to agree. I heartily wish they could. Lord Carysfort is desirous of supporting Lord Fitzwilliam in one member for that county, and of seeing his son, Lord Proby, chosen by the other interests with Lord Fitzwilliam's concurrence. But I fear Lord F[itz-William] looks further, and hopes to return one sure, and to influence the return of the other for some person more immediately connected with himself. Perhaps you may know how this is; but I fancy Lord C[arysfort]'s view of the subject is such as I have described.

"What has been done (or rather is now doing) for Ormsby is so very considerable an object, that he can have no pretence to press his brother on you, in preference probably to many

other and better claims."

Postscript.—"1806, April 13. Since writing the above I have seen Sir J. Newport. He agrees that it may be best to carry into execution the actual division of the Boards by the authority of the Lord Lieutenant and the Board of Treasury, and I am strongly of opinion that this should be done immediately.

"There will then require no large or extensive measure in Parliament, but the business will gradually find its own level by regulations to be established, as occasion shall require, either by the Lord Lieutenant and Treasury, or by the commissioners themselves under the authority and control of Government.

"But if his view of the present law be correct, three new clauses must of necessity be introduced into the Revenue

Bills of this year.

"1st, to empower the Crown to name, if necessary, fourteen commissioners of revenue, instead of twelve to which they

are now limited.

"2ndly, to grant to any seven, six, or five of them under whose direction the Lord Lieutenant or Treasury shall place any particular branches of the revenue, the same powers as the Commissioners of Excise enjoy and exercise under any Act with respect to the revenues now under their management. And to legalise all acts hitherto done by the Commissioners of the Revenue, or any of them, by virtue of such powers.

"3rdly, to oblige the commissioners as above to hear and decide themselves all cases arising in the Dublin district, in the same manner as is done here with respect to the London

district." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 12. Eden Farm.—"I enclose copies of a letter which I wrote this moring to Mr Fox, and of the enclosure

which accompanied it. Several points may arise in which it would be very material to have your judgment, if you should come: but at the worst, I can reserve them till we meet at the House.

"I wish to submit a doubt to you (and also to Lord Holland) whether it will be desirable to insert the elause of prospective discretionary powers in the Indemnity Bill. Can it come regularly within the title and principle of the proposed Bill? Can it originate in the House of Lords, as it must purport to give a power to dispense with the specific penalties recited in the Navigation Act. I think that we shall be benefited by the proposition having been made, and shall be thought moderate in resting on the Indemnity Bill, which certainly may be made a bed of roses as to all that shall have been ordered or shall be ordered prior to the passing of that Bill. Above all things the non-extension of the Indemnity Bill will be an extinguisher of a very long speech which Lord Sheffield is preparing against the expected extension.

"And with respect to roses, my daughters having sent to-day a basket of very beautiful roses to Mrs. Charles Long, I could not resist the writing to Mr. Long that, if Lord Castlereagh should be at Bromley Hill, he must not be apprised of our present, lest he should take it for an epigram from the

Anthologia.

"I find that when Haugwitz went to Vienna with the Potsdam treaty in his poeket, before the battle of Austerlitz, and with assurances that his mission was for the common cause of the allies, he agreed with Buonaparte to guarantee to France all the Italian conquests en possession et à posseder, to cede Anspach for Hanover en toute souveraineté, and to act in future offensively and defensively with France. The correspondence of the British and Russian missions from Berlin during that period must have been curious pieces of diplomacy."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, April 12. Dropmore.—" If it will suit you to be at your Office Monday, between three and four, I will call upon you in my way to the House of Lords, and we may then talk over the different points in your note which I have received this morning. I was to have seen the Duke of York at two; but I will put that interview off till Tuesday, that I may learn from you what points are in discussion between him and you, as he will probably talk to me upon them. I quite agree with you that we cannot, and must not, think of nursing up the Germans as pets, with a view to an impossible ease, that of their being again employed in the conquest of Hanover.

"When we meet I will mention to you my ideas about the Cape. Surely it would be a pity to displace Lord Harrington from Ireland, if Hutehinson does not desire it. I fear the objection to Lord Cathcart might be that he is too much

dipped, personally, in the new system by which the Lord Lieutenant and British Cabinet were both to be entirely excluded from all concern with the army in Ireland. I think you will agree with me that this matter must gradually (since it has not been thought right to do it at once) be brought back to something more like its former footing; and it appears that there are less official difficulties (as to the forms of commissions) than had been apprehended.

"If Lord Cathcart does not return to Ireland why should

not he command in Scotland?

"I can see no reason why the Russians should not take Martinique or Guadeloupe, if they can; but I think we may venture to predict that they are much too unused to such a service not to be sure of failing in it; and, if we engage for any co-operation, the whole failure will by their officers be thrown upon our shoulders. We must, therefore, I think, say distinctly that, as we have abandoned all such projects for ourselves, we can give them no aid in it, on account of the wasteful expense of men which these operations occasion to us, and which, by the bye, certainly will be much greater to them.

"All our views should certainly be now turned to the Mediterranean, and I regret that we are not more forward with our plans in that quarter. It is a great point that the Russians have occupied the Bocca di Cattaro; and I trust

they will maintain themselves there.

"Lord Ormonde is a person of some consideration, and has, I think, two members in the House of Commons. Your description of Stanley's case is just what I feel about it, giving him no claim to assistance, but creating a sentiment of compassion." Copy.

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 14. Dublin Castle.—"Mr. Elliot has communicated to me the intention of his Majesty's ministers that an address to the Crown for the appointment of a commission of regal visitation for this part of the United Kingdom, shall be moved immediately after the recess. I am happy to learn that this resolution has been adopted, because I think it essentially necessary that some immediate step should be taken to quiet the apprehensions of those who appear to think that the interests of the Protestant religion in Ireland are likely to be neglected, and to silence the misrepresentations of those who are industriously propagating such a belief. I requested Mr. Elliot to transmit to your lordship a copy of a letter he has lately received from the primate, from which you will perceive the just fears he entertains of the evils that may arise from the non-residence of the Irish clergy becoming more prevalent than it actually is. In truth this is a mischief of great magnitude; and if not speedily and effectually cured, must inevitably tend to the decay, and probably terminate in the total ruin of the

established church of Ireland. As soon as the draft of the commission is prepared, I trust your lordship will transmit it to me, that I may take the opinions of the primate and the leading members of the church upon it, as well as upon the names to be inscrted in the commission, upon which will depend in a very material degree the good or ill success of the measure.

"I flatter myself that I have established that cordial and confidential intercourse with the primate, which I think cannot fail to be of some use in promoting the welfare of the Protestant church, in maintaining its character, and by a zealous co-operation between the Government and the episcopal bench, reviving the purity of its doctrine and worship, which have hitherto been too fatally sacrificed to personal and political interests.

"Your lordship will, I hope, permit me to communicate with you confidentially, from time to time, upon a subject so intimately connected with the happiness and prosperity of the people of Ireland, and upon which, I flatter myself, a

perfect coincidence of opinion exists between us."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 14. Dublin Castle.—"I have had a second interview with Mr. Justice Fox, but my negotiation with him, as I was apprehensive it would do, has been quite unsuccessful, and he seems resolved to persevere in the course he before intended to adopt of presenting a petition to the House of Lords, complaining of the mode of proceeding against him. As the time is approaching for his appearance at the Bar of the House of Lords, he is anxious to take his departure for London, and you will perceive by the enclosed letter that he is solicitous to have an audience of you. Upon the whole I rather wish you could make it convenient to see him, as I think there is a possibility that a conversation with you may shake his determination. It is unfortunate that Downes should be still on his circuit, as it would have been very desirable that Fox should have advised with him, though I doubt whether even Downes's counsel would have produced much impression on him. I have done all I can on the occasion."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, April 15. Camelford House.—" I wish you would have the goodness to turn your mind to the idea mentioned in one of your late letters respecting the application of the money gained to the public by the sale of Church lands. I should like to see a plan for that purpose stated in detail, that it might be considered. The amount will be necessary to be distinctly known with this view. I think the general idea very good." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 15. Dublin Castle.—"Upon the present vacancy for the county of Wexford, Mr. Colclough is the

candidate whom Government supports; and at the general election, Mr. Carew, a relation of Sir John Newport, proposes offering himself in conjunction with Mr. Colclough. To secure the success of both, Lord Mount-Norris's interest may prove very essential, but it really is not expedient to deal with him on the terms he offers. I do not understand how Lord Ely could have promised him a seat for Ross, as Mr. Ponsonby Tottenham's interest is more powerful in that borough than Lord Ely's; and Mr. Tottenham was a few weeks ago, to my positive knowledge, at variance with the Ely family. It has hitherto also been in the Duke of Bedford's contemplation to give Mr. Ponsonby Tottenham the aid of Government at Ross. You shall have a list of the county and borough interests as soon as it can be prepared. It will be impossible, however, to make one at present which must not undergo

many alterations before a general election.

"Upon a conversation with Marsden on the subject of the provision which it was intended to grant to Johnson on his retiring from the Bench, I learn some such plan had been in agitation during Lord Hardwick's government, but it was relinquished in consequence of the difficulty presented to the arrangement by the preamble to the Judges' Annuity Act, which states the provision to be for 'such persons as shall have diligently and uprightly conducted themselves in the execution of their offices.' On mentioning this objection to the Chancellor, I perceive he is disposed to consider it as insuperable. Johnson is, I hear, at a little distance from Dublin, very unwell. At any rate, however, I shall avoid seeing him till I have your judgment on what is to be done under the circumstances I have mentioned. It is unfortunate that, in consequence of what was said at Lord Spencer's, I gave Johnson reason to believe that a pension to the amount of 1,200l. per annum would be arranged for him; and I rather think he had the same encouragement from Fox, who saw him about the same time."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, April 16. Camelford House.—"I hope I need not say (but that my whole conduct has proved) how many motives I feel for seconding to the best of my power any object for which you are as anxious as you seem to be on this subject. But you must allow me to say to you fairly, that I have not yet had to propose to the King any one thing to which my own judgment is so decidedly adverse as it is to this; and that I cannot help asking myself what grounds can be found to justify to myself, and much more to him, a request which is totally unprecedented, and which appears to me so very inconvenient to his service.

"It is proposed to create a new precedent of bringing into the Privy Council a person without any official claim, and in whose behalf you yourself now state nothing but a considerable

fortune, and a general zeal for the King's service.

"This has never yet been done in England. It had been done in Ireland, and with so much inconvenience that, as you well know, one of the special instructions that the Duke of Bedford earries out with him is that he should positively resist every such application. How can we require him to do this in Ireland, alleging a general principle to which we have bound him, if we ourselves, a fortnight after his departure, break through that same principle, not in Ireland where it has often been violated, but in England where it never has?

"Then consider, next, if the rule is to be violated now for the first time, is the person in question the first, or nearly the first, of the class who ought to be introduced into the Council? How many Peers are there of the first rank in the country, how many Commoners of much older families, much larger fortunes, all of pretensions in every possible shape superior to his? And what line is to be taken as to all these? You cannot, I am sure, wonder (if you will only candidly reflect on the multiplied inconvenience which such a step would bring upon the Government generally, and upon myself individually) that I must desire to converse with you again, and seriously, on the subject, before I do a thing where the gratification to the individual, be his merits what they may, bears no proportion to the trouble and mischief to which we are to subject ourselves. Now as to Lord Auckland; I do not wish to set up his opinions or wishes in opposition to yours. There is no comparison of the sort, and you cannot suspect me of making it. But I owe to Lord Auckland, as to every other person joined in office with us, the common attentions due to the station which I have proposed it to him to occupy; and, if you could for a moment place yourself in his situation, I would ask you what you would feel, placed at the head of the Board of Trade, to have had a fresh person brought there without even the civility of a previous intimation, giving him the opportunity of stating personal objections, if any such he had, against the individual to be joined in official habits and daily intercourse with him.

"This, however, is not the main point; it relates only to the *mode* of doing the thing, and I have no reason to think that Lord Auckland has any such objections. My difficulties are to the substance, and that I must talk over with you

again before I can take any step in it." Copy.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, April 16. Camelford House.—"You will have seen what occurred to me respecting the royal visitation, when I came to read the returns to Parliament on the subject of the church of Ireland. Those considerations, joined to the primate's letter, lead me to doubt whether we have done right

in putting an end to Duigenan's bill; and yet, if any thing be fit to be done on the subject, it ought surely to proceed from Government and not from the bishops, still less from Duigenan. Pray let me know what the Duke of Bedford

thinks on the whole of this subject.

"Sir J. Newport showed me yesterday the letters respecting Cavendish Bradshaw, and he will have written to you what passed between them afterwards. I am not sure that some augmentation of salary, though certainly not to that amount which is, I understand, now proposed, might not have been reasonable; nor am I aware of the legal objections to the appointment of a deputy, the principal remaining always responsible for him. What is asked about the insupers is certainly right to be done in some shape, and is conformable to the principle about to be brought forward, and acted upon here.

"But then, 1st, the proposed augmentation is clearly too large. 2ndly, the proposing to Parliament to dispense in this instance with the Place Bill, would be highly inconvenient and objectionable. 3rdly, the same objections would apply I think to making any Parliamentary provision, if that be necessary, to authorize the appointment of a deputy; and, 4thly, if there is no legal mode in Ireland already existing by which the insupers can be removed, that is a thing which should be done, not as a particular measure in this case, but as a part of a general provision respecting the mode of passing and auditing the public accounts.

"I have seen Lord Abercorn, and I shall move to-day to put off the attendance of the witnesses in Fox's case till the 19th

of May, keeping all other questions open as before.

"Lord Mountnorris sets off to-day, and was to have carried this letter, but I could not get it ready in time. He goes in consequence of a letter from Colonel Barry, stating that unless he was on the spot, and finally determined on this occasion what line to pursue, he might now see the door finally closed against himself and his family in Wexford. This plainly means that he should join one of the two parties on this occasion, upon an understanding of material support in future. You will best be able to arrange all this with him on the spot; and I have told him plainly that, although I am naturally well disposed towards him and his son, from the sort of family connection we have, yet that my being able to support his views on this subject must depend on his finding the means of making an arrangement with you, satisfactory to the interest of Government." Copy.

THE SAME to C. J. Fox.

1806, April 16. Camelford House.—"I have been trying to sketch a message on the Prussian business. I send you the draft containing the sort of sentiments that ought, I think, to be expressed on this occasion. Will you have the goodness

to consider it, and bring it to the Queen's House, that I may either read it to the King or state to him the general outlines. If approved, it might be presented to-morrow." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 17. Palace Yard.—"I do not know from what shop the enclosed manufactures issue; but I have reason to believe that they are to be protected and puffed in our House by Lord Sheffield, and in the other House by Mr. Rose. mode of petitioning against a measure which has no existence but in an incidental expression used in debate, is novel and objectionable: but it will be neither a difficult nor an unpleasant task to expose the irrelevancy and weakness of what we shall hear upon the subject. Still, however, I feel doubts (and they have occurred to some of our friends) whether it is parliamentary to add the proposed clause to an indemnifying Bill; and, at any rate, whether it would not be better both for our argument and for public purposes, to take the unanimous sanction to our doctrines which is offered through the Indemnity Bill, and to introduce a short and separate Bill to regulate the intercourse between the United States and the West India Islands in time of war. Lord Hawkesbury and the Duke of Montrose separately apprised me yesterday that they mean to oppose (as being both impolitic and unconstitutional) any prospective legalising of the intercourse as at present practised; and more especially any discretionary powers to dispense with the laws of navigation.

"The agent for Barbadoes put the enclosed draft of a Bill into my hands yesterday; it seems to be nearly a transcript

of the Act of 1783.

"I enclose also a printed copy of the Indemnity Bill, with Lord Ellenborough's proposed corrections, which are not objectionable, though perhaps not necessary."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, April 17. [Pall Mall.]—" I assure you, you had better consider a little further before you make the increase to the navy at the rate proposed last night, or you will turn what originated solely in views to the army, and was meant to them as a boon, into a subject of just discontent. Nothing can be so mistaken as the course of proceeding which we followed of beginning by allowances to the navy, adopted, I think, in many instances, without sufficient considerations; and then, when we had nearly exhausted the means of our bounty, leaving the remainder for the army. You forget that the army is more than twice as large as the navy, and, in the ease of persons worn out in the service, the navy sets out with a most ample fund of settled estates. I forgot, in talking upon the subject last night, a large head which will require I fear to be included, namely, the militia. The calculations

which I brought were necessarily imperfect; partly because I did not know, except accidentally, what was to be the business of the meeting, and partly from a vexatious difficulty, on which I shall have to talk to you, and which threatens to deprive me, and has therefore in some measure deprived me, of the assistance of Crawfurd.

"It is found that the information on which I had relied for some time, of three Under-Secretaries having sat at the same time in Parliament, is not well founded; and upon the result of the Acts, only two can sit. What is to be done in this case? A natural course might be Crawfurd's giving up his seat, but that he cannot do, as he has been put in by the kindness of the Duchess of Newcastle, and the seat is not one of which they have the complete disposal. It would be very unpleasant to leave it to the issue of a debate which of the three Under-Secretaries should, by law, give way; even of a debate among ourselves. But cannot some arrangement be made. Has Wynne no object which he would like as well as an Under-Secretaryship; or would Walpole be very anxious for the keeping his seat in Parliament, which to him, who does not take part in debates, would be of less consequence; and even to a person who did, would be of little consequence in the situation of Under-Secretary to the Foreign Department. To Crawfurd it is not so. His aid in Parliament would be far from inconsiderable, and to me in the Office, it is not to be replaced. I can find nowhere so able an assistant, and so judicious an adviser. I shall be much obliged to [you to] think how you can help in this difficulty, which is a most serious one. Though the having Crawfurd in his present situation is a concern of my own, the providing for him is one in which you will feel to have as large a share as myself.

"To return to the navy and army allowances; you had better have the whole subject before you, before any thing is to [be] decided; for it will be very bad if this measure, professedly began in views to the army, should turn out to be beneficial in a much greater proportion to the navy; as it must unquestionably, if, independent of other considerations, it gives the [same] sum to such very unequal numbers."

Postscript.—"We did not finally settle last night what should be done about hearing the Demcrara planters by counsel. I confess I cannot see clearly the force of the

argument that would refuse them."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, April 17. Camelford House.—"I should be very glad if I could suggest any mode of relieving the difficulty about the Under-Secretaries, but none occurs to me of any sort. Charles Williams is member for a county, and all his objects are in the House of Commons, and in the pursuit of business there. With respect to General Walpole, I cannot

of course form any opinion what degree of importance he, or Fox for him, attaches to his being in Parliament. It is quite true that I think Colonel Craufurd's assistance of great moment to you in your Office, and if there were any difficulty as to his continuance there I should much regret it for your sake; and I should also feel very much bound to exert myself in any practicable way to do something else for him. If the question turned merely on the person to be elected in his room, he continuing your under-secretary, but going out of Parliament, I should not despair of being able to manage that point satisfactorily.

"It is surely of infinite moment that you should get the scale of increase for the army made out in all its parts, that we may consider the whole together; and I would then beg you to fix a Cabinet at the earliest hour, morning or evening, that it would be possible for us to meet; for surely no other business, be it what it may, is equally pressing." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 17. Dublin Castle.—"The patent for the division of the Boards is under the consideration of the crown lawyers; but before the Lord Lieutenant sends the recommendation of the commission to England, it will be necessary for him to know the number of commissioners which it is intended to allot to each Board. Sir John Newport seems to think it will be necessary that there should in all be fourteen. Lord Annesley is returned to town, and in a conversation I had with him yesterday he appeared very practicable. He offered either to remain at the Board of Customs, or to transfer himself to the Excise Board; and the only stipulation he made was the succession to Lord Donoughmore's house, to which he has an unquestionable claim from being the senior commissioner. You, if my memory serves me, expressed a wish that Lord Castlecoote should preside at the Excise Board. The salaries of the commissioners may, as it appears to me, remain at their present establishment, and the two chairmen will have the additional advantage of houses; Lord Annesley succeeding to Lord Donoughmore's house, and Lord Castlecoote to that which is at present inhabited by Lord Annesley. You will oblige me by letting me have your sentiments on the number and distribution of the commissioners, when you shall have settled these points with Sir John Newport; and I shall likewise thank you to inform me whether the other part of the arrangement meets with your approbation."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, April 17.—Upon looking over the papers I am very doubtful whether it will be necessary to produce any except the last, and a copy of Schulemberg's proclamation; but, if you do not think the delay objectionable, I should incline

to wait till Monday that we may consider of it. Everything that tends to blacken the Court of Prussia is desirable, but, on the other hand, the general proceeding speaks for itself.

"If you think the delay objectionable, I will get copies of the two papers ready for both Houses to-day."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, April 18. Camelford House.—"I have mentioned to Mr. Elliot, in a letter I wrote to him a few days since, that the extent of the information contained in the returns made to the House of Commons (and lately printed by order of that House) respecting the present state of the church of Ireland, had created some doubt in my mind whether the measure of a regal visitation of that church might not be superfluous, and I was not sure in what light it might be considered by the bishops there, and by other friends of the establishment; whether as the necessary foundation of measures of increased liberality and protection towards them on the part of Parliament and of Government, in which view alone I am sure your grace as well as myself would wish to entertain it; or whether it might not create an impression of some sort of hostile enquiry calculated to countenance opinions unfavourable to the general discipline and conduct of that part of the united church. Nothing could be more satisfactory to my mind on this subject, than to learn what would be the opinion entertained respecting it by the primate particularly, and by such other distinguished members of the church as your grace may think it expedient to consult. In the meantime I will not fail to communicate on the subject with the King's advocate here, in order that we may be prepared with our measure if it shall be deemed advisable to pursue it in that shape. But your grace may depend upon it that nothing shall be brought forward here respecting it, till after the fullest communication with your grace, and the opportunity of consulting with the primate upon it." Copy.

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 18.—"I have had an answer from Talleyrand this morning, who insists peremptorily on his objection to a joint treaty, so that all must be off, and our course so far easy and plain. But I am not so fond of ease as not to be exceedingly vexed, though not surprised, at the going off of the negotiation.

"If Bonaparte does not by an attempt at invasion, or some other great imprudence, give us an advantage, I cannot but think this country inevitably and irretrievably ruined. That is no reason for our quitting our stations, especially as we took them with something like a certainty of the evils I dread coming on; and yet to be Ministers at a moment when the country is falling, and all Europe sinking, is a dreadful situation, especially if we can make no great and striking efforts for safety.

"I feel this so much that I hope you will reconsider the propriety of your desire that we should abstain from accusing our predecessors. We are not, nor can be safe in character, perhaps not even in other respects, if we do not shew that the present state of affairs is in a great measure owing to the absurd and, in the event, ruinous line of conduct pursued by the late administration.

"There is a Cabinet to-day at two at my Office, which I summoned on the information by telegraph that something was coming. I enclose you Talleyrand's private letter on account of the expressions relative to Russia; I cannot well

part with the public one till we meet."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 18. Whitehall.—"I send a draft or sketch for your correction as proposed, and when you return it corrected, it shall be transcribed and forwarded to Lord Holland, and shall be put into proper shape to be presented to the House. I have made some mention to the Speaker respecting the expediency of discouraging all peevish nicety on this business in the House of Commons; and perhaps you will enforce that intimation."

EARL TEMPLE to THE SAME.

1806, April 18. Pall Mall.—" You will recollect I mentioned to you when I first took possession of my office that I found the practice had very generally prevailed of issuing money merely on the authority of letters from the Secretary at War, and without requiring warrants under the King's sign manual. I found that Mr. Rose had repeatedly remonstrated against a practice so irregular and improper, inasmuch as those letters were no vouchers, and would not be accepted as such by the commissioners for auditing public accounts, by whom the Paymaster's accounts are passed. But though Mr. Rose had remonstrated, he had done nothing to stop the practice. I immediately directed that, from the 25th of March last, no money should be issued from the Office unless to King's warrants, except under the following cases when I was aware that a dclay in the issue of the money would be attended with serious inconvenience to the public. In those cases I professed my readiness to pay the money on War Office letters only, it being understood, and distinctly engaged for by the Secretary at War, that, at the end of each year, upon an account being transmitted to him of the sums so issued, a covering warrant should be immediately procured for the same. The cases in which I thought it right to take upon myself the risk of advancing money under War Office letters were as follows: regimental accounts casually occurring, and the extent of which could not be foreseen, and for which consequently King's warrants could not be procured; accommodations of money to officers ordered abroad.

"To my letter to the Secretary at War notifying this arrangement, and stating that, with a wish to forward the public service, I was ready to take as much personal responsibility as my duty would allow me; but that, as I was answerable, so I ought to be the judge of the necessity of the cases whenever they occurred, I received an answer stating that many other cases than those I enumerated existed, in which the public service and private convenience would suffer materially from my adherence to the rule that I had laid down; and that the Secretary at War must, in the first instance, be the only judge of the necessity of the case under the pressure of which it was necessary to issue money from the Pay Office without the production of King's warrants. I returned for answer that I adhered to my resolution; and that though it was certainly true that the Secretary at War must be in the first instance the judge of what were the proper cases in which the Pay Office should be called upon to advance money on the production of War Office letters alone, yet that as the Paymaster General was both personally and publicly responsible for the issue of money from his Office, he must be the ultimate judge of the necessity which would justify him in incurring that risk. Thus the matter stands. You will observe the Pay Office Act is silent on this head. It only directs that we should produce proper vouchers for the sums The auditors of public accounts declare that the proper vouchers, and the only ones they will accept, are warrants under the King's sign manual; and whilst they so insist on the production of them, I shall insist upon those vouchers being furnished to me. The other irregularity of not dating the receipts was the last thing I rectified before leaving town.'

Endorsed:—Lord Temple and Mr. Wickham.

Minute of Lord Grenville.

"The Paymaster ought in no case to issue money but upon

authority which can be admitted by the auditors.

"If therefore the Secretary at War cannot at all times obtain the King's signature to the necessary warrants, which is by no means certain, some new regulation must be adopted.

"Might not a general warrant be granted authorising the Paymaster to issue money (under certain restrictions) not exceeding a given sum in any muster, or quarter, upon letters from the Secretary at War, countersigned at the Treasury? to be covered by warrants at the end of the time, stating the particular services.

"By Statute 23 Geo. III, c. 50, sect. 29, the Paymaster is directed to issue money for regimental contingencies at such times and in such proportions as the Secretary at War shall direct."

Private. Lord Grenville to C. J. Fox.

1806, April 19. Camelford House.—"I am very sincerely grieved that the answer you have received is such as you had

apprehended. One way is perhaps still open, that of treating by letter, if Russia had sent, or would send full powers to anybody here to go along with you in the negotiation. But I am afraid that the same overbearing disposition and confidence in their own means that have dictated the refusal to treat conjointly, would infallibly defeat all hope of success in the treaty.

"What you say about our situation as Ministers in a time of great difficulty and danger is certainly true. The state is a painful, and in some respects a dangerous one; but we were not blind to it when we accepted our offices, and undertook to do the best we could, certainly without any possibility

of answering for the result.

"I own I cannot think that we should improve either the situation of the public or our own by accusations against our predecessors. First, because by pursuing that course we should infallibly disturb the disposition which has been so universally shown, with very few and inconsiderable exceptions, to support and forward our measures; and should add to the other mischiefs that surround the country, the distraction of great intestine divisions. And, secondly, because those divisions must in that case infallibly extend themselves to the Cabinet itself, where we have hitherto experienced the most perfect and cordial harmony; but where it would be impossible to hope for agreement either in the general resolution of attacking our predecessors, or in the particular point of blame to be chosen, or in the extent to which it should be carried; all these being, as you well know, questions on which we should have differed in opposition, and during Pitt's life, and on which therefore there is no chance that we could agree now." Holograph Draft.

LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 20.—"You were so good as to encourage me to mention any employment in your gift which would suit Mr. Allen. A Commissionership of Lottery has occurred to me; and though I know of no vacancy, I have taken the liberty of suggesting it in hopes that, if it does not interfere with any other engagement, you might set down my friend's name for it when one should take place."

Postscript.—"I wish to suggest one or two additions to the Intercourse Bill, and will speak to Lord Auckland about them. If you approve them, I will move them in Committee."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, April 20. Stable Yard.—"I will take care that there shall be sent to you in the course of the day the two papers which, according to your judgment, may or may not be laid before Parliament. The first is M. Hardenberg's letter to Jackson of the 26th; the second, our representation to the Court of Berlin. The object of the first is to show the false

pretences on which Hanover was first occupied, and especially how anxious Prussia was to get our troops away. The second may, I think, be useful in another point of view, which, in my way of considering the present state of Europe, is of some importance, inasmuch as it is the first public paper that marks clearly the distinction between making cessions to France, and accepting from France the property of others. So far in a general view. In the particular case it may be useful to distinguish by as marked a line as possible the conduct of Prussia from that of Spain, and to guard ourselves against the imputation of that odious principle of considering neutrality as enmity. However, I leave this to your better

judgment.

I agree with you that our language ought not to be too inflammatory; but my only reason for moderation is that, until we are surer than we now are of the zealous and active support of Russia, we might be in danger of appearing to threaten more than we can perform. If Russia will really act vigorously, I am, on the most mature reflection, of opinion that too much cannot be said or done against Prussia; and that the taking from her of Poland or of any other part of her dominions would be so far from weakening an instrument which may at some time or other be used against France, that it would, by its example in the first place, and by the introduction of the Russians into Germany in the second, tend more to stop the career of the enemy than almost any other event whatever. Even supposing the attack to be unsuccessful, Prussia would at all events be harassed; and if French troops are sent to support her, her sufferings from being the theatre of war will be very heavy."

Postscript.—"I hope I may say McLean is out."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, April 20. Dublin Castle.—"Your letter of the 12th,

with the postscript of the 13th, reached me on Friday.

"So far as I am informed, there is little prospect of carrying two members for the county of Wexford on the part of Government without the aid of Lord Mount-Norris and Sir F. Flood; and I doubt whether even with their most strenuous co-operation, the attempt would prove successful. However, notwithstanding the importance of their support, I still cannot help thinking it will involve us in much embarrassment if we engage with them on the terms they are likely to ask. At the same time the Lord Lieutenant will be entirely guided in the matter by your judgment, and will feel perfect satisfaction with any arrangement you may deem it advisable to conclude on the subject.

"I have no means of ascertaining what may be the intention of the Tottenhams in respect to the borough of Ross at the general election. The elder brother of the present member has an interest in the town, which is not to be shaken, and will support Alcock, who is his relation, in his views upon the county. The member will nevertheless vote with Government in Parliament (except on the Catholic question) if he has the revenue patronage at Ross, but there happen to be one or two promotions in the revenue which he is pressing to be made immediately, and which, I am afraid, the Lord Licutenant will not be able to accomplish so speedily as he wishes; and this circumstance may perhaps render him less friendly to

us than when I saw him in London.

"I have no positive knowledge of Lord Fitzwilliam's views in respect to the county of Wicklow, but I believe them to be precisely such as you conjecture. You should lose no time in communicating Lord Carysfort's intentions to Lord Fitzwilliam, as it is possible that such an explanation, if made immediately, might lead to some satisfactory adjustment of their different interests. Lord Fitzwilliam is quite sure of carrying one member, and must have so powerful an influence in the choice of the second, that a contest would be most troublesome and expensive. I have not mentioned the subject to anybody but the Duke of Bedford, as I am anxious that it should first meet Lord Fitzwilliam's ears either from yourself or Lord Carysfort.

"You, perhaps, are not apprized that there is now practically a division of the Boards, as Lord Annesley, who is at present the only double commissioner (Lord Donoughmore being in London) has, for some months past entirely confined himself to the customs. There must be a new commission opened immediately to include Hutchinson, and a draught of a new patent is before the crown lawyers. Some of the commissioners of customs will probably wish to be transferred to the excise, and vice versa; and it will be advisable to consult their inclinations in this respect to secure harmony at the different Boards. The new commissioner, Hutchinson, too, must not be placed at the same Board with Lord Annesley.

"I shall not fail to take an early opportunity of looking at

the Irish diocesan returns alluded to in your letter.

"In consequence of John King's intimation of the necessity of a full parliamentary attendance, I have either seen or written to all the members on this side of the water, to whom I can venture to apply. I wish earlier notice had been given to us, as some considerable interval must clapse before several of them can reach London. I hope the few that are in Dublin will be gone by the middle of the week. Some have promised to go sooner."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, April 21. Camelford House.—"I certainly feel that the words which you quote from the Irish statute respecting the provision for judges do create some difficulty, but I should not think that in the case of Judge Johnson it was by any means insuperable. There is no suggestion that Johnson

has in the execution of his office 'done any thing liable to censure, or has conducted himself otherwise than with that diligence and uprightness which the law requires.' These words certainly can be no more than equivalent to a clause of quamdiu se bene gesserint in the patent of an office, and yet I conceive no man would say that such a patent could be vacated by showing that the person holding it had been convicted of an offence no way connected with the administration of his office. I should wish you would converse again with the Chancellor on the subject. I have no other interest in the matter but what arises from a sense of the very great hardship, I may say cruelty, of turning a man quite loose upon the world without any provision whatever, in consequence of proceedings which are, in so many stages of them, liable, as I think, to just exception.

"I will write to you on some other points in a day or two, but I thought it best to lose no time in stating to you what

occurs to me on this." Copy.

LORD ELLENBOROUGH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 21. Bloomsbury Square.—"I take the liberty of troubling you with a communication of the enclosed, which your lordship will perceive to be written in unreserved confidence, and intended for no other eye than my own, in order to shew that the Bishop of Elphin was not only not privy to the application with which I troubled your lordship some time ago on his behalf, but that he has no desire whatever to change his situation. Your lordship will likewise, I persuade myself, be pleased to see that the appointment of Mr. Eliot gives such general satisfaction."

LORD GRENVILLE to C. J. Fox.

1806, April 22. Camelford House.—"I should never have thought of troubling you to read the absurd and foolish letters that I send you with this, if it was not for the mention

made in them of the Prince of Wales.

"I wish you would give me your opinion whether in answering Mr. Reeves (as I shall of course do) that I wonder he should imagine me likely to give him any advice expressed or implied as to his papers, I ought or not to add that I think it right in point of respect and duty to the Prince to say that I never did receive (as in truth I never did) from his Royal Highness, directly or indirectly, any intimation of any wishes of his Royal Highness on the subject of Mr. Reeves.

"I know such a story has been in circulation, because it was mentioned to me a week or ten days ago from another quarter; but I can hardly think that Sheridan could have given credit to it, much less have repeated it." Copy.

Private.

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, April 2?. Camelford House.—"You are yourselves in Ireland much the best judges as to the number of commissioners that it will be necessary to allot for each Board, and I should wish to know your sentiments on the subject. I was not aware indeed of the necessity of any addition to the present number, nor should I have thought of proposing any such fresh burden on the establishment, if Newport had not stated to me that it was indispensable on two grounds. because we must secure an attendance sufficient to have the Boards constantly held, as is the case here; and this must, to be sure, form an article in the new instructions to be sent from the Treasury to the new Boards; namely, that Boards shall constantly be held from ——— to ——— in the forenoon of every day for the despatch of [such] business as shall be before them, with such adjournments only as shall be specified for the usual holidays, and such other as shall from time to time be specially authorized by the Treasury. 2ndly, because it seems very material (and so indeed I understand you think it) that the commissioners should themselves hear the appeals in the Dublin district, as is the practice here; and this addition of duty may reasonably enough require an addition of persons to perform it.

"We have here two chairmen of each Board, who take a monthly rotation with each other, and no Board is held without one of them. A chairman and deputy chairman would answer the same purpose in Ireland; and if Lord Annesley and Lord Castle Coote are disposed to give this degree of attendance to the respective Boards, it would, I think, be very right that they should be the chairmen, but not otherwise. You will best judge who are the best for the deputy chairmen, and will probably think it right to communicate with Newport on that point before it is finally

settled.

"I hope you understand that I by no means wish for an addition to the numbers of the two Boards unless it be judged really necessary. If such an addition is to be made, you will of course let me hear who you think qualified for the situation by real habits and disposition for business, for it would never do to let the appointment so made bear the character of favour or interest.

"Perhaps this opportunity might be favourable for bringing forward one or more Catholic gentlemen of talent and character, according to the idea discussed at Spencer House." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 23. Palace Yard.—"We adopted all your amendments to the American Bill; and two or three further amendments occurred in my examination of the draft with

Mr. Cowper. A clause is also added, on the suggestion of Lord Holland, 'that the neutral vessels so employed must belong to the country from which the goods and commodities

are brought.'

"The opponents to the Bill are extremely alert in the expectation of giving some trouble to us; in which however they will meet only with disappointment and mortification. But it will be desirable that several of our friends should give their support. I have spoken to Lord Rosselyn, Lord Buckinghamshire, and others; and we can speak to the Chancellor and Lord Moira, who are both well disposed as

to the point in question.

"Lord Sheffield has a long string of about thirty motions, all of which except one or two must be negatived. He shewed them to me. I cannot guess who can have prepared them for him, but they are idle, objectionable, and unparliamentary. I returned them without pointing out some glaring absurdities; and merely said to him that if he made such motions, it would be impossible to treat them with much respect. He suspended them yesterday, but will probably resume them to-day.

"Lord Radnor, being desirous to agitate many points respecting the impeachment ceremonial, and to propose many insertions from the old ceremonials, and some novelties, I thought it best to recommit the report, as such discussions in the House are what the French call oiseuses. A quarter of an hour in the committee room will dispose of them."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, April 23. Camelford House.—"I think the extra service to be required in the colonies, in cases of emergency, must be extended to twelve months, if not to eighteen.

"I should also think that the whole of your plan might be very safely extended to the *present army*, if the terms of service were to begin to be reckoned from the conclusion of peace; their augmentation of pay will still be to be reckoned according to your first proposal, namely, from the dates of their respective enlistments.

"I am afraid you have not yet had time to turn your mind to the augmentation of the black corps in the West Indies,

but it is one of urgent necessity on every ground.

"I am sorry to find that an impression is gradually gaining ground among the Volunteers in the country that you have, in your opening speech, depreciated their services. You must try to counteract this, or you will be doing more practical harm than good by any plan you can carry through. The real operation of your plan is in no degree injurious to them; but all people, and particularly those of this country, require to have their vanity consulted at least as much as their interests; and when this can be done without any sacrifice

of essentials, no public man would, I think, neglect it, at the risk of introducing discontent into a country now universally united in support of its Government." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 23. [Pall Mall.]—"You are perhaps as little prepared as I was for a circumstance which Lord Howick told me in the House yesterday, namely, that after all our talk about the comparative numbers in the navy and army, the number to which the 300,000l. applies is considerably less than 120,000; as it does not include the marines, for whom a separate provision must be made. I say less than 120,000, conceiving, upon memory, that 120,000 is the number voted of seamen and marines. There surely must be some excess of allowance to the navy that can make the proportion of the sums such as it is, upon such proportionate numbers. I don't know enough of the circumstances of the marine service to know how far, they have a claim to augmentation in consequence to an augmentation to the army. They have prize-money, and an allowance, I presume, of ship's provisions. On the other hand, the marines have by their conduct entitled themselves to great indulgence; and, of all persons, cannot be overlooked when anything is done for the sailors.

"If, in consequence of this new head of expenses, the allowance to the army becomes comparatively less, and the risk be thereby increased of the reflexion arising on the comparison, 'see here the effects of mutiny,' my only hope is that I shall be able to propose to you such savings on the other branches of the army as may give us greater latitude with respect to those that we have had in view.

"I want to attack the whole principle of this system of supernumerary field officers, urged, as it is, on the score of providing for leaves of absence, persons serving on the staff, and such like, by proposing that the supernumeraries should be placed at the other end, that is to say, by having supernumerary subalterns; and that, in the case of any officer being removed to a staff situation, the next in succession should supply his place, being paid at the rate of the officer removed, during the time he so serves. In this way, instead of providing a whole establishment of field officers with a view to vacancies that may happen, you will have to pay upon the number only of the actual vacancies; and even that payment will be only the successive differences of the pay of the officers so advanced for the time, making less probably than the whole pay of the superior. So, at least, I imagine it will be, upon the view of the moment. But, at all events, a great saving must be made, even if you were to suppose the staff to remain at its present amount.

"Many other advantages with respect to the discipline of the army will, I think, grow out of this. As things stand

at present, there are regiments having four field officers upon their establishment, without a single one present. On the other principle, by only keeping up a sufficient supply of the lower ranks, the regiment will be always full.

"I daresay that reasons will not be wanting to urge against this, but I do not believe any that will be entitled to con-

sideration.

"On the subject of establishments in foreign services, I have what I am assured is the establishment of a regiment in the Prussian service; according to which the proportion is of one officer to forty men, being nearly the same as Craufurd had before stated it to be; and being somewhat more than takes place in the establishment of the guards, as contended for (and for the present carried) by his Royal Highness. This head of reduction can only be a gradual one; the immediate reductions will be in the staff, the waggontrain, the number of effective horses in the cavalry. A further gradual reduction must be in the numbers both of the cavalry and the guards, by stopping the recruiting in each; a measure which is necessary to give a fair trial to the system we are now adopting.

I am rather unwell to-day, and have thought it better, in consequence, to desire Fox to put off my motion till Monday; as, even if I should have been able to bring it on to-morrow, I should have come still less prepared than I should otherwise have hoped to be. The naming Thursday instead of Monday

last was at their own desire.

"Upon looking at the establishment of the Cape, I find that both the Deputy-Governor and Secretary are such as might be a temptation to Walpole, if he did not object to going abroad.

Postscript.—"I am expecting a plan of the staff as pro-

posed by the Duke of York."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

receive this the Lord Lieutenant will have seen Lord Mountnorris, and will have decided what arrangement may be best to be made with him, in which I have no other wish but to do what may best contribute to the general strength of the Government both now and in a future Parliament. If Alcock is withdrawn by the Wcxford contest from his views on Waterford, will it be impossible to induce Lord Waterford to support Sir J. Newport. Would it not be useful to communicate with Pennefather respecting Wickham's re-election in case of dissolution. This might prevent the possibility of any other engagement being taken. These things are by no means mentioned with any view to immediate dissolution, which I continue to think a step to be avoided if possible; but there may be some advantage in having some of these arrangements made beforehand.

"I am far from thinking Lord Carysfort determined to start Lord Proby for Wicklow, and I think therefore that a communication to Lord Fitzwilliam now would be premature. I need hardly say how much anxiety I shall feel to prevent a contest between two persons with whom I am so much connected.

"Unless it be absolutely necessary, you should surely not issue a new commission of revenue, but two commissions, one of customs and the other of excise. Indeed I do not see how a fresh commission of revenue in its present shape, including Lord Annesley's name and including Lord Donoughmore's, could issue without a direct breach of faith with the latter, who expressly stipulated against this being done.

"The attendance in the House of Commons is wished with a view to the military plan. There is much disposition to make difficulties as to the limitation of service, and that disposition is, I am sorry to say, countenanced by the Duke of York in some ways not very usual. I have however no doubt that we shall do very well." Copy.

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, April 24. Stable Yard.—"I send you back the strange papers you sent me. There can be nothing, I think, for you to say but that you know nothing of the matter, and that no application has been made to you from the Prince either directly or indirectly. Let me have the words of the King's answer time enough to alter them properly for to-morrow."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, April 24. Palace Yard.—"I ought to apprise you that a most urgent application is making from Greenwich, Poole, and all the ports concerned in the Newfoundland trade, for a bounty on dried fish, and pickled salmon, to enable them to bear the expense of bringing the fish to be storehoused in the British and Irish ports, in order to its reexportation in neutral vessels to the Mediterranean. They rest their application on the strange situation of Europe which excludes British ships from all the accustomed market; and they solemnly assert (with what truth is best known to themselves) that unless they are assisted under this pressure they cannot maintain the trade, but must withdraw from it. We were attended yesterday by some of the members for Poole and other sea-ports. I suspended the consideration after hearing them, that I might call for accounts of what was done and expended by the bounty of 1801. In the meantime, and before we summon the parties again, it may be right that the subject should come under your view. They admit that depots at Gibraltar and Malta may become very material, but not in time to obviate the actual distress.

"I enclose Mr. Younge's answer respecting the amount gained by the sale of Church lands, and disposable at the Bank. That method may certainly be turned to a very interesting and useful purpose; and the disposal of the money will be more than compensated by the tendency which it will have to complete throughout the kingdom the redemption of the Land Tax both by the ecclesiastical and lay corporations: for with respect to the latter, there are small almshouses which are without means to redeem their own land tax.

Private.—"I hope that Mr. Windham is submitting his Bill or Bills fully to your consideration: for I hear out of doors various remarks on that subject, under which it [is]

impossible not to feel some uneasiness.

Private.—"The Prince of Wales has directed me to wait on him to-day. I have reason to believe that he is desirous to speak to me respecting a discussion which is taken [sic] part in a private family with which I happen to be well acquainted; in which discussion he has made himself in some degree a party."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, April 24. Camelford House.—" I enclose a memorial and letter from my friend Mr. Grenfell, a most intelligent and respectable man. I have myself no doubts of the propriety of the measure he recommends; but it may be right that the Admiralty should have the opportunity of stating any which they may entertain; and that, if there really does exist any danger, it may be fairly considered at the Committee of Trade. No one is better able to inform you on the subject than Grenfell is.

"I have, as you know, a mortal antipathy to all bounties. Still, however, every proposal of the sort must be tried on its own merits: and when you have fairly investigated this question of fish, I shall be glad to see your statement of it; to which, however, I shall certainly bring a general impression very unfavourable to the policy of paying your subjects out of the public purse to enable them to trade at a loss." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1606, April 24.—"I send you a letter which I have just got from Whitbread. I have said, in return, that the only objection is the fear of its being supposed that there is any wish on the part of the Government, or on my part, to put the motion off; that I would write to those who might be better judges of that than I was, and be governed by their opinion. I write to you, therefore, and write to Fox, who, though present when Whitbread wrote, may not have had resolution to state to Whitbread what was his genuine opinion. If you will settle with Fox what is best, the decision may be acted upon without further communication with

me. The only circumstance, as affecting myself, is the non-attendance in one case of Whitbread, who, if he would take a part, might be of considerable use.

"I shall be in town this evening, and expect to meet the Attorney and Solicitor General on the subject of the

 $\operatorname{Bills}.$

"The object is to put things upon that footing that, while every engagement made to the soldier shall have the faith of Parliament pledged to the performance of it, there shall be a power always in Parliament and the Crown to vary the terms of engagement in successive years, as they may see fit. This, I think, must be capable of being done by a permanent Chelsea Act, and an annual Mutiny Act; making the provisions of the Chelsea Act to be that Parliament would make good such engagements as the King should, from time to time, enter into with the consent of Parliament, as expressed

by the Mutiny Act.

"I have received Hope's papers, and cannot find anything in them that should at all shake one's opinions. His plan for giving the soldier a right to Chelsea, when the allowance is only the same as at present, I cannot think at all a good one. The soldier would not feel that he gained anything, and would really gain what might be very vexatious. He, if I recollect, is going upon the supposition that, if the term of enlistment is eight years, an eighth of the army may claim their discharge every year. Whereas, if the Duke of York's fact be true, that a 12th of the army dies every year (I fear it is more) the number upon seven years having a right to claim their discharge would be only a 20th, or 5 per cent; and, if half only of those were willing to stay, the number discharged would only [be] $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. There need be no surprise that, in the present state of things, numbers of those who were formerly the greatest advocates for enlistment for term have now changed their opinions; but this is one of the cases in which the δευτεραί τιδες may not be the wisest, except in respect to wordly wisdom.

"I wonder you should think that I can do any good by declarations about the Volunteers. I should only disgrace myself, without satisfying them. It is in vain, in general, to attempt to satisfy those who are disposed to be unreasonable; but it is utterly hopeless to get the better by explanation, of such powers as are now employed to misrepresent. Not one word have I said about the Volunteers that could have a character of sneering at or vilifying them. Lord Castlereagh on the first night did not pretend to bring any such charge. All this they now say is an afterthought, founded on the facility which is given to misrepresentation, as the memory of the fact becomes more and more faint. All that I have to guard against is the not being betrayed, by any provocation, into expressions which might justly be taken

hold of.

"I am sorry that you have no prospect of giving me any assistance in the case of Colonel Craufurd. The natural way would be to find some situation for Walpole, which, though less lucrative, might be more permanent than the Under-Secretaryship. The Secretaryship or Deputy-Govenorship of the Cape I would be willing to give him, but I am afraid that, besides other objections, he would hardly consider it as more durable.

"Hippisley's appointment, I can easily believe, would not be popular; but there would be nothing but impression against it. He would fulfil the duties of the situation better than most persons; and I must consider what I can do for

him.

"Lord Howick, I see, moves for the additional pay to the navy to-day. I should have thought that this would have been better deferred till we had voted the army estimates. I fear you will find that the expectations raised in consequence in the army will hardly be satisfied with the augmentation which we have proposed."

LORD GRENVILLE tO EARL SPENCER.

1806, April 24. Camelford House.—"I return you the Lord Lieutenant's letter, enclosing that of Lord Drogheda. It only appears from the latter that he has been unlucky in his political speculations; but to compensate not only all the holders of abolished offices, but also all who might have held them if they had not held something else, would go beyond all ideas that I have ever heard any man maintain on that subject." Copy.

THE SAME to W. WINDHAM.

1806, April 24. Camelford House.—"There can be no doubt that the marines must be considered at the same time with the army and navy. I really have no belief that anybody will judge our measures by so inapplicable a scale as that of mere comparison of gross result from the proposed increase to the two services; and I am fully persuaded that the allowances settled for the army, when we last discussed the

subject, are sufficient for the objects in view.

"You well know how earnestly I wish to persuade you to make effectual reductions in the present military establishment, which, all the world knows and says, is extravagantly and injuriously profuse; and nothing will give more satisfaction to me than to co-operate with you in a determined, and therefore a successful, war upon second battalions and supernumerary field officers. Your observations on the radical defects of the system adopted in respect of the last of these two objects are unanswerable, both as to economy and discipline.

"Pray let me see your Bills as soon as they are reduced into any shape, for I grow very anxious and uneasy on the subject from all I hear is going forward upon it.

"I wish I could help you about Craufurd, but I see no

means.

"Perhaps you would think it right to offer the Cape to Lord Rosslyn. Shall I speak to him about it, to know if it would be agreeable to him. Lord Charles Somerset is a person for whom it would be extremely convenient to find some provision on many accounts, but I do not know whether you would think him of sufficient calibre for the Cape. The report of Hippisley's appointment certainly has created some dissatisfaction and censure." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, April 25. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville begs leave humbly to submit to your Majesty that, in the new arrangements for the better collection of your Majesty's revenue in Ireland, it is proposed that the present Board of Revenue there should be divided into a Board of Customs and another of Excise; and that, as Lord Donoughmore is now at the head of both departments, his lordship is to quit that situation and to be recommended to your Majesty for the office of joint Post-Master-General. But as Mr. Beresford, who preceded him in the Revenue Board, was, in virtue of that situation, called to your Majesty's Privy Council here, and appointed a member of the Committee of Trade, Lord Donoughmore is anxious, if your Majesty does not object to it, to receive the same distinction previous to his quitting the Revenue Board. Lord Grenville has taken the liberty of bringing this matter before your Majesty in this way, because he is doubtful whether the trial may not make him too late to pay his duty to your Majesty on Wednesday next; and would therefore humbly solicit your Majesty's permission to be absent from the Council on that day, unless your Majesty should have any commands for him.

"Lord Grenville begs leave, for the same reason, to take this mode of humbly recommending to your Majesty the grant of a pension to Dr. Burney to the amount of 200l. per annum clear; and of 100l. per annum clear, to each of the two Miss Dilkes', whose case, he believes, is not unknown to

your Majesty." Copy.

Private. The Same to W. Elliot.

1806, April 25. Downing Street.—"An idea was mentioned to me by Lord Henry Petty to-day, which I think so useful, that I now write these few lines to mention it to you lest it should escape my memory. He told me that the present plan of education at Maynooth was purely and exclusively theological, and suggested whether an allowance of a small salary for a chemical, and another for a medical

professor, might not be of the very utmost advantage in instructing the Irish priests in the elements of a sort of knowledge which would make them highly useful to their parishioners. I really think this might be of greater practical good than many things of infinitely greater extent and parade, and as such, I cannot help wishing that you would pursue the idea. I myself should add a little mathematical, or at least arithmetical instruction; without which all education even of the very lowest classes of the community is, I think, imperfect; but if that be trying too much, let us do what good we can; and this is a favourable moment for finding the Catholics disposed to receive with good humour what in other times they might reject as an impious and heretical interference with the manufacture of Catholic priests." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 25. Palace Yard.—"I have no doubt that the sum at present gained by the sales made by corporate bodies, may, with the instalments still due and the accumulating interests, be called 100,000*l*.; and that the further sales to be made will clear all the expences attendant on the commission. Supposing that 2,000 of the small livings and charities to be chargeable annually with land tax at the rate of 3*l*. 10*s*. and under that sum; it will be found that the whole, taking the average at 2*l*. 10*s*., may be clear'd for 100,000*l*.; and it may be shewn that it never can be clear'd from any fund belonging to the livings; and the benefit conferred would be of some little importance to the merchants.

"I will communicate to Lord Howick a copy of Mr. Greenfell's paper, and will afterwards talk to him about it: and unless he should apprise me of decided objections on the part of the Admiralty, we can afterwards make a formal reference from the Committee. I have some recollection that, with the concurrence of the Admiralty, we lately gave a licence

to send copper sheeting to Lisbon.

"After you quitted the House yesterday, Lord Radnor detained us till seven o'clock in a debate somewhat of the peevish kind, for the purpose of forcing into the report (apparently to mortify Mr. Cowper who had objected to it at the Committee, perhaps with more earnestness than so small a matter deserved) the order that 'the Lords shall keep their places in the Hall during the trial.' We objected in vain that the order exists in the Book of Orders already; that though in trials for murder or treason it may have been brought forwards for greater solemnity, it never has in any instance been inserted in the instances of trials for high crimes and misdemeanours. A reference to the 22nd volume of our journals, number 530, will shew this; as also a reference to Mr. Hastings' trial. We urged also that it was an inconvenient order if strictly exercised, and that it might safely

be left to the general sense of decorum. He forced us to a division, fifteen to nine, and said that he would renew the question again to-day."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, April 25. Downing Street.—"I see no great objection to Whitbread's proposal, and I really think you would lose more by his absence than you would gain by the difference of two days. Great industry is certainly used to alarm people about the plan of limited service, and more impression has evidently been made on the Volunteers than I expected, considering how very little your plan has taken from them. This we must of course try to counteract as well as we can, not certainly by your stating any opinions that you do not hold, but by as concilatory a form as possible of stating those you do hold. Perhaps ten shillings more might be given in the clothing; and you certainly never meant to say that, at the end of the three years, no further allowance should in any case be made to them on this head, but that no engagement ought now to be taken by Government on a point which ought undoubtedly to be left (as at present) to be decided upon by the Government at the time. Yet this is, as I learn, the point of all others that has given most offence.

"It is certainly true that 20s. will not clothe the Volunteer. "I heartily wish I could have helped you in Craufurd's business, both for your sake and his; but I know of no situation,

such as you describe, vacant, or likely to become so.

"Lord Ormond has, I believe, two members in the House of Commons, besides his own vote in the House of Lords, and a considerable name in the country. I saw his brother to-day. Their pretensions for Stanley are now reduced to a puisne judge in Lower Canada, or the attorney-general of Upper Canada, both which he told me were vacant.

"If you have no other engagement, this would certainly

be a cheap way of obliging Lord Ormond." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, April 27. Windsor Castle.—"The King approves of the arrangements proposed by Lord Grenville for the better collection of the revenue in Ireland, and of what is submitted in his letter in regard to Lord Donoughmore and Mr. Beresford. His Majesty also acquiesces in Lord Grenville's proposal for granting a pension of two hundred pounds to Dr. Burney, and of one hundred pounds per annum clear to each of the two Miss Dilkes. From the circumstances of the trial, which may necessarily engage the attention of many of His Ministers, it it not the King's intention to go to London on Wednesday next, unless there should be any business that should render his presence absolutely necessary."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, April 29. Palace Yard.—"The Chancellor and Lord Ellenborough were so anxious to pass the Evidence Bill (which I really believe to be a correct declaration of the law) that I thought it right to stay at the House above two hours, to assist them against Lord Eldon and Lord Hawksbury and Lord Stanhope, who endeavoured to reject the Bill:—at last

we gave the third reading without a division.

"Lord Stanhope moved for an account of corn and rice imported and exported in the last two years. Such an account as a matter of information was quite unobjectionable, and, in truth, is already contained in the general accounts of imports and exports already presented and printed. But he took the occasion to launch out into a most wild declamation respecting the imminent danger of a famine from the harshness of the season and the shutting up of the Baltic. Lord Moira and I thought it right to express our astonishment at assertions so apparently illgrounded, and so mischievous in their tendency; and we ventured to say that, subject to the dispensations of Providence, we saw no reason whatever for sounding the alarm; and in the mean time (which is true) that large cargoes are arriving with every fair wind from the Baltic. He seemed to be beaten down, made no reply, and I am willing to hope that we counteracted any bad impression.

"The Committee of Council for Trade yesterday made a report to the Treasury, in general terms, respecting the expediency of carrying into immediate effect the project of warehouses and depôts at Gibraltar and Malta, for the produce of our fisheries, British manufactures, and European wines and oils. I have a strong persuasion that such a measure, if well executed, would gradually produce most important consequences both in peace and in war. We also made a report to you on the urgent expediency of opening a system for the location and cultivating of lands in New Brunswick and

Nova Scotia."

Confidential. "It appeared to me to-day that the transaction respecting the purchase, holding, and transfer of East India stock, if made out by evidence, would bear very unpleasantly.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, April 29. Park Lane.—"I do not mean to attend the trial; in addition to other objections, I am very apprehensive that I could not bear the cold of the Hall. I do not know whether it be necessary to send any excuse; if it should be, will you have the goodness to direct me how it is to be

"I conclude that my health will be a sufficient reason to the Chancellor. I am very anxious to see you, but I would not trouble you during your demênagement. Pray let me know

when you can see me."

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, April 29. Downing Street.—"What between trial and dinners, the only times I have for seeing anybody are from $\frac{1}{2}$ past 9 to 11 at night, and from the same hour to $\frac{1}{2}$ past 10 in the morning.

"This evening I am fully engaged; but to-morrow evening,

if you will call, I will try to keep myself open." Copy.

THE MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

.]—"I have seen George Nugent who is [1806, April extremely distressed and hurt by the notification that his Royal Highness had great satisfaction in informing him, and so on. He had wished for every reason to have retained his old 85th, and is now supposed to have received a mark of attention which, in faet, is none; and which, as explained by you, is a mark of gross inattention to you. I fear you can do nothing to mark your sense of this conduct at present, but the moment must come in which this matter must be grappled with. I have fresh and most decisive proof that his Royal Highness announces the most distinct and most eager hostility. The regiment given—at the Cape—to Alexander Hope, was a direct bargain to induce him, who was always a warm advocate for limited service, to stay away from the division in which he would have supported you. Surely this new Cape regiment should be stopped on principles of economy.

"I find that you are most properly moving in the House of Commons for some relaxation to large families in the property tax. Pray consider the same as with respect to children in your new beer tax. Newman writes me word that he has nineteen children, of whom seventeen are at home, ten are above ten years old; he keeps no man servant save a gardener, but has five nurses and maids. I state this, that you may consider how to assist families of such a description, the number of which in England cannot be large, but whose complaints will naturally be loud."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

[1806, April.]—"I have just found your note and could have wished to have seen you, to have detailed to you much of what I cannot put upon paper. As to himself, nothing eould be more explicit as to his intention of voting, and as to his opinion, which is decidedly with you; a very unqualified assurance that the King has no thoughts of a change in his Government, and that no one of his family or servants have ever been able to draw from him the smallest symptom of hostility to Windham's plan; that I may depend on the firmness of the King's conduct; and that a very late conversation enables him to give me in eonfidence, the most direct assurance that the King is satisfied at present, and wishes

to be left quiet. That the Duke of York and of Cumberland are both very indiscreet, and very urgent with the King, who has complained to him of being worried by them. That the Duke of Cumberland is to speak as well as vote against you; and that the Duke of York will probably attend and vote against you, though it is possible he will stay away. He recommends, if the Duke of York has not explained himself, that you should urge him to stay away; and if you should fail in obtaining a positive engagement, he is positive that an explanation from you to the King, would obtain a positive order to the Duke of York to that purpose. He does not know of any one King's friend who is to vote against you; but seemed to think Lord Dartmouth—whom he termed a shallow politician—might stay away unless you sent to him; which he recommended if it should be necessary, which he would ascertain this evening and would send me a line of information. He is satisfied that the Duke of Cambridge will support, but I cannot find that he has any positive assurance or reason, beyond his Royal Highness's observation that all the Hanoverian troops had for a century been invariably enlisted to limited service. On the whole, there is an absolute promise certainly of his attendance on Wednesday, and Thursday, and much good ground for thinking your Government much stronger in the King's mind than you might imagine.

"General Bude has been indefatigable in trying to keep the Duke of York from the acts and declarations of hostility to which he is inclined, and to which he is urged. Lord Uxbridge is described as very rancorous and mischievous."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, May 1. Palace Yard.—"I shall be obliged to write again to you in the course of this day; 1st, as to the draft of the American Bill; 2nd, on the secret papers from Amsterdam, which, however, require from their importance more observation than I shall be able perhaps to write to-day; 3rd, on the general results of the several orders of Council respecting the embargo, on which Sir John Nicholl has not yet given his note to me; and in the meantime the Commissioners of the Customs are raising new questions.

"I inclose the Speaker's answer, ceding in the politest terms one of his two windows to the Auditor of the Exchequer. I have also said everything necessary to be said on the subject to Mr. Burrell, and I have visited the two boxes, with the Speaker. They severally hold about twenty four persons, which I mention for Lady Grenville's information; and if I can do anything further, I shall be glad to receive her commands. You will, I believe, see the Speaker to-day at

Camelford House.
"Mr. Cowper, having prepared and compleated all the orders as to the impeachment, I moved them yesterday at

the Committee, with some alterations (from the precedents) as occasioned by the Irish Union; and I postponed the report

till Monday.

"I annex four of the resolutions as being either novelties or variations, that they may have your corrections if you wish to correct them. Clause A.—The words underlined were added by us to the resolution taken from Lord Macclesfield's case. He was tried in the House and not in the Hall. Without those words Lord Melville would be obliged either to sit in the House, or to stand at the stool whilst the procession is entering, or be exposed to walk down the House in very humiliating circumstances. As it now stands, he will merely enter one step from the box, when he will be with his friends, and sit down with his back to the Bar. It is a bad operation at best.

"The other orders, I hope, are conformable to your wishes."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806.—May 1. Dublin Castle.—"I am in your debt for several letters. That of the 25th of the last month reached me yesterday, and I shall take care to keep in view your

suggestions relative to the college at Maynooth.

Though Lord Mount-Norris's interest in the county of Wexford will be very material towards our success both at this and at the general election, we have not yet ventured to conclude a treaty with him. He continues to ask the office of custos rotulorum, and a seat for Sir Frederick Flood, to be renewed at the general election. If we should accede to his terms, we must, I am afraid, look to your side of the water for the seat. He was to see the Chancellor yesterday respecting the office of custos rotulorum, but I have not heard the result of their interview. If we could depend on his adhering to his engagement, I should be disposed to purchase his support on the conditions he proposes; as, without it, Government will have no chance of carrying both members at the general election; and even with his co-operation the attempt will be very likely to fail.

"The Board of Revenue having recommended the superannuation of the present surveyor of Ross, the Lord Lieutenant has permitted Mr. Tottenham's nephew, who is now a landwaiter there, to succeed to the office, and a friend of Mr. Tottenham's is also to be made land-waiter. In consequence of this arrangement I have an assurance that Mr. Ponsonby Tottenham is to give his support to Government in Parliament upon all measures except the Catholick question; and I have apprized King of this circumstance that he may apply to him

for his attendance.

"Mr. Knox (Lord Northland's eldest son) has declared himself a candidate for the county of Tyrone at the general election. The present members are Sir John Stewart (who is brought in by Lord Abercorn) and Mr. James Stewart, who is a stedfast friend to the present Government. Mr. Knox is opposed to Sir John Stewart, and asks the assistance of Government, but no answer can be given to his application on this side of the water till we know the relation in which you stand to Lord Abercorn. Knox, like all candidates, professes to have the best-founded hopes of success, but I hear that his father gives his interest against him. Mr. James Stewart is now in London, and will be able to furnish the best information on this subject; and it will be desirable that there should be a communication with him upon it, as a contest between Lord Abercorn and Knox might prove injurious to his interest. Fox has a great friendship for Stewart, and will therefore be the properest person to employ to speak to him.

"I will do what I can with regard to Wickham's seat.

"Lord Waterford, who is now in the north of England, passed through Dublin in his way thither. He called both on the Duke of Bedford and me, and professed a friendly disposition to Government. His principle object is to gain the aid of Government in his views on the county of Waterford, the city of Waterford, the town of Dungarvan, and the county of Londonderry, in all of which places (except Waterford where he interferes with Sir John Newport) he will find competitors in the Ponsonby family. I told him that I could not venture to give him any answer on these points until I should be able to ascertain the extent of the views of the Ponsonbys. I afterwards had a conversation with the Chancellor, who appeared very reasonable in his views, but said he could not speak definitely on the subject without reference to his brother. I heartily wish we could bring these two great interests to an understanding at the general election, but I am afraid Lord Waterford will not abate much of his pretensions. John Claudius Beresford is going to London, and I suppose will vote with Opposition, unless we are able to hold out more defined hopes of an accommodation with Lord Waterford. I do not apprehend, however, that any of the Beresfords will, at present, take a very warm part against us.

"I am very glad to find that you sanction the opinion I have all along entertained in respect to the difficulty, which is suggested in the case of the intended provision for Johnson. He has certainly done nothing which impeaches 'his diligence and uprightness in the execution of his office,' and is by his state of health already entitled to the benefits of the Act. The Chancellor, I think, is somewhat shaken in his opinion on the matter, and does not annex quite so much importance to the objection as he did. I shall, however, not feel myself at liberty to proceed in the negotiation with Johnson, till you authorize me to do so. If he should be deprived of his office without a competent provision, he will have to complain of

a severity of treatment bordering on injustice.

"I sent some questions a few days ago to Sir John Newport relative to the constitution of the two intended boards of revenue, upon which he is to communicate with you."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, May 2. Dublin Castle.—"I have just had a long conversation with John Claudius Beresford, to whom Lord Waterford had referred me on all points relating to the interest of his family. He was very cordial, and stated that since Mr. Pitt's death, the wishes of Lord Waterford and his friends, with regard to politic connection, were directed towards you. In respect to Lord Waterford's local parliamentary views, I collect from Beresford that he might possibly be induced to restrict them to an alternate representation for Dungarvan, to one member for the county of Waterford, and one for the county of Derry. In the city of Waterford I find the Beresford interest is pledged to Mr. Bolton, on whose recommendation Mr. Alcock's pretensions were principally founded; and if Mr. Alcock should be returned for the county of Wexford at the general election, and Mr. Bolton should decline offering himself for Waterford (which Mr. Beresford does not conceive to be improbable) there would be a prospect of Sir John Newport's retaining his seat without trouble. Such an arrangement, if Lord Waterford would consent to it, might, I should hope, not be thought by the Ponsonbys incompatible with their interests by the plans I have named. Indeed, on sounding the Chancellor on the subject, I do not apprehend he would be averse to it. At the same time his views must in a great measure be governed by Lord Ponsonby's. Beresford goes to London to-morrow, and I imagine will not take any active part in Parliament. will stay there about three or four weeks, and I cannot help thinking you might do much good by seeing him. As Lord Ponsonby is likewise there, you may perhaps be able to ascertain his pretensions at the general election. Waterford, I understand, strongly wishes his brother Lord John (the Bishop of Cork) to be transferred to Raphoe, but I do not think he would press it inconveniently.

Postscript.—"You will learn from Sir John Newport, to whom I have written all the particulars, that the loan is made

at the price of 139l., $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cents."

Private. The Duke of Bedford to The Same.

1806, May 2. Dublin Castle.—" I had the honour to receive your lordship's letter of the 18th *ultimo*, marked private, and thought it my duty to send a copy of it to the primate, that I might have the advantage of his grace's opinion more fully expressed on the proposed measure of a regal visitation of the church of Ireland, before I communicated further with your lordship on a subject of so much delicacy, and of so

much importance to the interests of this part of the United Kingdom. Your Lordship will perceive that the Primate is of opinion that the greater part of the bishops and clergy of Ireland will regard a regal visitation with suspicion and alarm; and from all the information I am able to obtain from other respectable quarters, I have no doubt that the fact is so. In this case it would not merely be imprudent to attempt it, but the expected benefits we look to, as the result of such an enquiry, might be converted into the most serious mischiefs.

The returns made to the House of Commons are loose, incomplete, and unsatisfactory; and if your Lordship has leisure to examine them in detail, you will find they are not such as we ought to adopt as the basis of a salutary and effectual reform of the church. Without such a reform there can be no real safety for Ireland, but how is it to be accom-There are undoubtedly many difficulties in the way, but I trust they are not insuperable. The enquiry grounded on Sir John Newport's motion of last session, was considered as a measure of hostility to the establishment. The greater part of the bishops considered it as an unnecessary exposure of the imperfections and defects of the church, without a due allowance being granted for the local disadvantages under which she labours; and they, in consequence, set their faces against the Parliamentary inquisition (as they termed the measure) and withheld their assistance from those who were directed to carry the enquiry into effect. The information we desire to obtain must be sought with the entire concurrence and co-operation of the bench and higher orders of the clergy, or I fear our efforts will be of no avail.

"The mode suggested by the Primate is worth considering. I believe there can be no reason to doubt the zeal and sincerity of his grace and the archbishop of Cashel in affording us every assistance; and I trust we may also rely on the two remaining archbishops, although the one is somewhat too impracticable, and the other too indolent, to hope for much essential service

from either.

"A full consideration of the unions which have taken place; the state of the several parishes as to churches, glebe, houses and lands; the extent of the assistance to be given by Parliament towards building churches; the best means of encouraging and enforcing residence; the mode of collecting tithes; all these, and many others form serious subjects of reflection; and I anxiously hope that they may engage the earnest attention of your lordship and his Majesty's confidential servants; that some plan may be digested and prepared to be laid before his Majesty in the course of the ensuing summer, which may tend not merely to prop the tottering fabric of the established church of this part of his united kingdom, but to secure its strength and durability on a solid and lasting basis; and thus enable his Majesty with

the most entire and perfect safety to grant the full measure of concession to his faithful subjects of every religious persuasion."

Enclosing:—

THE ARCHBISHOP OF ARMAGH to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, April 27. Armagh.—"I had the honour of receiving your grace's letter, enclosing a letter from Lord Grenville. Lord Grenville. I cannot hesitate a moment to assure your grace that I believe most of the Irish bishops and clergy will regard a regal visitation with great suspicion and alarm, and consider it as a measure calculated to countenance opinions unfavourable to the general discipline and conduct of the church. In the present state of this country it will be extremely difficult to name commissioners who shall equally possess the confidence of government and the clergy; and, without the sincere and hearty concurrence of the bishops, they would find it almost impossible to accomplish the object of their commission. A regal visitation may produce consequences of a very evil tendency, which his Majesty's ministers could neither prevent nor control; and is therefore a measure not to be adopted without apparent and urgent necessity. It was indeed proposed some months ago, but proposed for reasons which no longer exist.

"At the same time I must fairly acknowledge I concur with your grace in thinking that the returns made to the House of Commons are incomplete and unsatisfactory. The queries were addressed to men incompetent to answer them; and therefore, except in the few instances in which the bishops themselves drew up the returns, their answers must be incorrect. The residence of the clergy, the number of parsonage houses, the quantity of glebe are matters which cannot be ascertained in the Register's Office.

"But with regard to all these matters, as well as to every point relating to the church, I conceive your grace may, without resorting to a regal visitation, obtain the amplest and most satisfactory information. The archbishops have certainly the means to procure a most exact statement of the real situation of the church in every particular. The archbishops in this country exercise a more extensive jurisdiction than is exercised by the archbishops in England. An English archbishop has little connection with his suffragan bishops, and no connection with the clergy under those bishops. But in Ireland an archbishop not only visits his own diocese every year; but each diocese in his province once in three years; during which visitation the function and power of

his suffragans are entirely suspended. He examines personally and publicly every individual clergyman, and puts what questions he thinks proper to the bishops, who are obliged to answer them in the presence of all the

"Hence the archbishops certainly have the means to ascertain every matter relating to the church; and I entertain little doubt of their being willing to employ those means, and communicate to your grace for the information of his Majesty, whom they must consider as head of the church, the result of their

enquiries.

"As to myself, and the Archbishop of Cashel, whose provinces include a third of Ireland both as to quantity of land and number of benefices, I can assure your grace we are extremely anxious that government should become acquainted with the real state of ecclesiastical affairs; and are therefore ready, with the assistance of our suffragan bishops, to give your grace every information respecting the church, its defects, its discipline, and its wants, and every assistance towards devising the means of

remedy.

"I know not what are the points concerning which government particularly wishes for information; but if I understood Mr. Elliot right, the unions of livings was one chief object of their attention. There certainly wants no regal visitation to enable your grace to become acquainted with every circumstance respecting these unions. For the Act of Parliament which authorises the Lord Lieutenant and Council to form these unions gives them ample power to dissolve these unions, gives them ample power to dissolve them whenever it shall appear that they are useless or improper. The greater part of these unions has been formed by the direction of government, with perhaps more attention to the emoluments of the clergyman to whom they were given than to the advantage of the established church. But with whatever intention they were originally formed, they have produced many serious evils for which I fear no remedy can be provided. The consequence of uniting eight or ten livings is that the churches and parsonage houses fall to ruin; and, excepting in that part of the union where a church remains, the protestant inhabitants emigrate, or renounce their religion. If the union of these parishes was now dissolved, what could be done with such of them as are without churches, houses, glebes or Protestant inhabitants? The erecting of churches or houses in them would be of no service, unless a Protestant congregation could be collected. The imprudence of consenting to these unions is very glaring, and the mischiefs they have occasioned very manifest;

but I much fear that the remedy will not easily be found." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 4. Palace Yard.—"I enclose a letter from the King's Advocate, and two other letters on the same subject. These papers involve a most important and pressing consideration, and therefore I am anxious to learn to-day your general sentiments respecting them; and if you incline to correct and adopt the suggestions so well stated by Sir John Nicholls (which suggestions appear to me to be an improved and efficient extension of the measures which we were proposing to pursue) I will either see Lord Howick, or will communicate to him the letter from the King's Advocate. Sir Francis Vincent may then learn the result from me, and the whole may be arranged by a Minute of the Privy Council to be communicated to you for the approbation of the king's government. It is the more pressing to decide, as many urgent applications are at present before me, and must be governed by this decision."

Confidential. "I have doubts as to the expediency of pushing the iron tax; and next as to the expediency of establishing the system of limited service by Act of Parliament, until its effect shall have been previously tried, by raising a few separate battallions; and lastly (which is a matter fit only for most private conversation), as to the expediency of

meeting this same Parliament in another session."

LORD HOLLAND to THE SAME.

1806, May 4.—" I concur with you entirely in thinking that it is material to bring on the Bill you mention as soon as possible, and will secure, if I can, the attendance of the only three or four peers whom I know to be friends to such a measure. Darnley told me yesterday he should go into the country that day, and I did not press him to stay, because I thought that he was not a friend to it; but if I knew how far it was approved of at Carlton House, I could have a better guess whom it is prudent to canvass."

Postscript.—"Perhaps I shall have the pleasure of meeting you to-day at Lord Spencer's, in which case we can talk over the matter, as I am not at present aware from whence it is that

you apprehend much opposition to it."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, May 5. Downing Street.—"I have renounced the trial, finding it impossible to go on without neglecting every other duty. As I am not aware of anything in the House to-day, I shall not come down; but I should be much obliged to you if you would in my name, fix the second reading of the

Foreign Slave Trade Bill for Wednesday next, and summon the House. The Duke of Clarence will probably press for a later day, but you must not give way; and if he objects to making the order to-day for the second reading on Wednesday, you must only confine yourself to a notice that I will on that day move the second reading." Copy.

Private. The Same to W. Elliot.

1806, May 5. Downing Street.—"Although I fully feel how desirable an arrangement would be, which would enable you to secure with Lord Mountnorris's aid the two members for Wexford on a general election, yet there appears as yet so little prospects of seats at the disposal of the Government here, that you would not be safe in entering into any such engagements with Sir F. Flood, otherwise than provisionally, i.e. that if he is brought in here he will also do so and so in Wexford.

"We have had no explanation with Lord Abercorn; but as it seems finally determined to discharge the order for proceeding with Fox's business, I fear that will drive him into direct hostility. It still remains with me to see the Lord Chancellor on the subject of that proceeding, but if he agrees in the opinion entertained by all the rest of the King's servants in the House of Lords, I shall in a few days give notice of such a motion. When I see Mr. Fox I will speak to him about Stewart.

"I will certainly endeavour to see Claudius Beresford, unless, which I should rather fear, he commits himself at once to the

Opposition which is so actively forming against us.

"I conversed with Lord Ellenborough since I wrote to you, and I find him quite of my opinion as to Johnson's case. It is, however, of course a measure which I should of all others least like to take in opposition to the opinion of your Chancellor. Pray therefore speak to him again about it; if he is satisfied I shall feel no other difficulty.

"Newport will answer your revenue question, which we discussed together yesterday. We rejoice much at getting

our Irish loan on such good terms." Copy.

Separate. THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, May 5. Downing Street.—"Newport showed me a letter from G. Ponsonby in which he speaks of the late arrangement respecting 2nd and 3rd Serjeant in Ireland, and takes credit for his firmness in resisting some applications to do what he thought wrong on that subject, and desires Newport to assure me that in his recommendation for legal arrangements he always will conduct himself by the principles to which we all pledged ourselves to each other here. I think it may be useful if you were to mention to him how much I was gratified by the communication, and to assure him of

my fixed determination to adhere under all circumstances to that system, and to let nothing induce me to swerve from it. This subject becomes the more important because the arrangement in view for Johnson will of course open a vacancy on the Bench, and I shall look with extreme anxiety to the recommendation which we receive on that occasion, which I must consider, and which will certainly be considered by the world as the test of the sincerity of our professions on that subject. I well know that both the Lord Lieutenant and you feel on this head exactly as I do. Our credit is completely at stake on this point, and I am sure whenever it does come into discussion, you will tell me all that belongs to the different names that can be brought into question." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 6. [Pall Mall.]—"I found the Duke of York yesterday, and heard his objections to our proposed reductions; and, though some of them were of no force, and all of them were taken ad referendum, yet there were some that rested on grounds of which, at the War Office at least, they ought to have been aware, and which are of a sort to require consideration.

"The objection is, that corps, though deficient in numbers of rank and file, always keep themselves complete in officers and non-commissioned officers; and that, of consequence, if you reduce their establishment, you put a number of officers on half-pay, which is a hardship; and discharge a number of serjeants and corporals, which is a loss to the service. There is the further effect that, by diminishing their means of recruiting, you contribute to keep them incomplete.

"To the first of these objections, I know not well what answer to make except that the corps are not always complete in officers and non-commissioned officers, and that, notwithstanding the reduction of their establishment, an order may be issued from the War Office directing them not to discharge any of those they have. A larger scope however must be given, possibly more than we have allowed, in order that, if recruiting should prove successful, the estimate may not The disadvantage to recruiting is one that must be submitted to, as it is in the case of the second battalions, which, if the other principle were followed, namely, that of augmenting recruiters in proportion to the want of recruits, should be raised to the same establishment as the first. plea urged on behalf of the colonels was made out but lamely, and furnished, certainly, a strong argument, though much resisted in that view, for a change that must be hereafter considered in the system of army clothing.

"I don't know any compromise of this but that of taking the rates of establishment a little higher, without abandoning the principle of different rates, so as to be sure of covering the future expense; and issuing an order, such as I before mentioned, from the War Office, empowering the regiments to keep all the non-commissioned officers which they at present have. There may be objections which one is not aware of even to this. I shall proceed to the War Office presently to endeavour to learn them, and will let you know the result of my enquiries."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, May 6. Downing Street.—"The Primate's letter, a copy of which I had the honour of receiving from your grace this morning, seems so much to confirm the apprehensions which I had entertained as to the effect of a regal visitation undertaken under the present circumstances, that I cannot but feel anxious rather to try the effect of some other mode of enquiry before such a measure should be resorted to. other attempts fail this may always be kept in our hands as a last resort, and it may perhaps be adopted with less inconvenience when the objects which we propose by it are more distinctly understood. My present impression would be, therefore, that our best proceeding would be in the following course: that your grace should write to the four archbishops transmitting to them a paper of instructions containing the points on which it is desired that they should, as early as may be convenient in the course of the present summer, prepare and transmit to your grace to be laid before the King's servants here, such information as may best enable them to arrange such measures as it may be expedient to propose to Parliament next session for the advantage, security, and encourgement of the established church in Ireland.

"The points mentioned in your grace's letter now before me are certainly those on which such instructions should principally turn. To them it might possibly be useful to add some consideration of the state of education, as far as relates to the charter and other Protestant schools. And the application being made to persons so well qualified both by station and character to advise the King's government on these subjects, it might possibly be useful expressly to desire what, at all events, would have been implied in such instructions. I mean that the archbishops should not merely state to your grace the facts which they may collect on the result of their enquiries, but should also give us the benefit of their opinions as to the safest, easiest, and most effectual mode of removing all such inconveniences as now operate to the

prejudice of the establishment.

"This course would be so consonant to the general tenor and spirit of the instructions under which your grace acts in Ireland, and to the system which was settled here by personal communication between you and the King's servants before you left this country, that I should not imagine any

fresh official direction would be wanted to authorise its being immediately adopted. If, however, your grace should think that it would receive any additional sanction from an official correspondence upon it, I know enough of the sentiments entertained by Lord Spencer (in common indeed with the rest of the King's scrvants) to be very sure that, as soon as we shall learn that these suggestions are approved by your grace, with any improvements that you may make upon them, not a moment will be lost in receiving the King's pleasure for instructing you officially upon them." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 7. Admiralty.—"I am always unwilling to trouble you with applications, but I cannot avoid sending the enclosed letter, to which I only request such an answer as may be without inconvenience to yourself. The writer is the son of Sir Grey Cooper, and if other engagements do not stand in the way, I should be very glad to have it in my power to serve him."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, May 7. Dublin Castle.—"Your letters of the 5th instant (by express) have this moment reached me, and I shall not fail to attend to their contents.

"Lord Mount-Norris is returned to England, having previously declared his intention of supporting Mr. Colclough, and professing to rely upon the future liberality of Government. This circumstance will, I imagine, secure Mr. Colclough's

success on the present occasion.

"The office of custos rotulorum is therefore still vacant, and I must fairly acknowledge to you that I derive much satisfaction that it was not necessary to confer it on Lord Mount-Norris, as he is not held in that estimation in the country which would have rendered it reputable for the Government to have put him at the head of the magistrates of the county, where the commission of the peace requires much revision."

Postscript.—"In a list, which has been sent to me by Sir Francis Vincent, I perceive John Claudius Beresford is put down as having voted in the minority. As he is still in Dublin, I presume Lord George Beresford is the person who was in the division."

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, May 8. Downing Street.—"The appointment of his grooms of the bcd-chamber is a matter which the King has at all times reserved so much to himself that it is very doubtful whether he may afford me any opportunity of expressing to him any wish of mine respecting this or any future vacancy.

If he does, I should have great pleasure in promoting your wishes on the subject, and in that case certainly would not fail to mention Mr. Cooper's name to him. But I do not think that I could with propriety, or indeed with much chance of success, be the first to open such a conversation with him." Copy.

THE SAME to THE SAME.

Downing Street.—"The enclosed letter from 1806, May 9. Fulton refers to some new proposal of his, the particulars of which he has not sent to me. On reconsideration I do not think that the thing can well be settled by any one individual acting under the orders of Government, as such person must in fact have constant recourse to us for his instruction in all he does or says, and we shall only increase instead of

lessening our trouble in this troublesome business.

"What I would propose would be to refer the whole to two or three arbitrators to be named between us and Fulton, who should have full power to decide—1st, what sum should be paid to Fulton now to get rid of him and his projects altogether; or, 2ndly, if they think he has a further claim to be heard on his submarine project, then that they should name two artillery and two sea officers to whom the whole should be disclosed, and on whose report the arbitrators should decide; 3rdly, what additional compensation should be paid to Fulton for the discovery, either in consequence of the stipulation made with him by the last Government, or as a just reward for the value of the discovery; or, 4thly, that if Mr. Fulton insists on some actual compensation previous to making the discovery, the arbitrators should have power to settle what is just and reasonable so to be paid.

"I have thought for our arbitrators of W. Dundas, Sargeant, or Bond; but if any better names occur to you, I can of course have no preference as to the choice of names, supposing you think the thing itself right." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 9. Palace Yard.—"The King's Advocate passed three or four hours with me yesterday evening, and in the result we send the enclosed papers for your correction.

"I would propose that, on receiving the concurrence of Mr. Fox, number one should issue immediately. It is very urgent in respect to the cargoes, and eventual export of our

manufactures and colonial produce.

"Number two is also a pressing consideration. Number three is a great and most important measure; after much discussion and examination, I have no doubt that it is right, though still open to many corrections and improvements both in expression and in substance; and if it be right the sooner it shall be carried into effect the better.

"Shall I wait on you in the course of the morning either in Downing Street or at the Treasury? The Court will not sit after one o'clock, unless something unforeseen should

happen.

If we can settle the drafts this morning, perhaps the shortest way would be to have a Cabinet, either this evening or to-morrow immediately after the trial, in the Council Chamber, when the King's Advocate and I would attend."

LORD GRENVILLE tO LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, May 9. Downing Street.—"Your having got the House adjourned is a great relief to me, for I was really almost knocked up, and have every day the painful conviction that I

am twenty years older than I was twenty years ago.

"We have had a Cabinet this morning, and in it much discussion upon your papers. The two first we have no difficulty about, and are clear that the sooner they are executed the better it will be. As to the last, I am sorry to say that the more I consider it the less I am pleased with it. I was very much in love with the idea at first, but I fear more and more that it must be abandoned.

"Some resolution however should be definitely settled on the subject, and we have therefore agreed to have a Cabinet here on Monday at one, at which we should wish to have your assistance and the King's Advocate's. Perhaps you will have the goodness to apprize him of it. I return the two first papers, but as I conclude you have a copy of the third, I keep it for further examination of it.

Can you figure to yourself any ground on which America would be induced to consent to our establishing our consuls in her ports as a tribunal before whom her merchants must prove the facts of neutral property and neutral growth, in

order to legalize their subsequent voyages.

"And yet, short of this, what other proof could satisfactorily establish those facts? Or would even that mode of proof satisfactorily establish it?" Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 10. Downing Street.—" Under all the circumstances of our return from Westminster Hall at a quarter before three, I settled with the House (after much reluctance on the part of Lord Hawkesbury, Duke of Clarence, and Lord Westmorland) to go through the committee on the Slave Trade Bill to-day, and to report; after which I moved the third reading for Tuesday next, when you [are] to have a debate, after inserting amendments if you have any; all which I hope you will approve.

"And we have adjourned, which is a great circumstance

to me at least."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, May 13. Palace Yard.—"I have received a letter from the firm of Van Notten, desiring instructions respecting the 16,000l. per year, which, by the act of the 43rd of the King, was in the names of certain trustees, 'in trust for the House of Orange during the King's will and pleasure.' Is it meant that it should be continued to the successor in the whole? Or will the King incline to give any part to the daughter (the hereditary Princess of Brunswick)? Or under the words 'House of Orange' can any part be given to 'la princesse mère'? Perhaps you will think proper to

mention the subject to his Majesty.

"May it not be a material aid at this moment towards the omnium gatherum of taxes, to bring into play the unappropriated gain by the redemption of the land tax? The stock redeemed by that operation to the first of this month was 22,500,000l., including about 25,000l. not yet paid in. The interest thereon is 675,000l., of which the public has a gain of one-tenth, 67,500l., to which may be added all the accumulation of nine years. On the whole I conceive that it may be valued at about 80,000l. per annum, of which you might in this year very moderately appropriate 74,000l. per annum, leaving the remainder to the project for redeeming the land tax on about 1,500 small livings; which would be a most creditable and beneficial measure, and which is more especially desirable, as the redemption cannot otherwise be accomplished. I really think that this paragraph may deserve your attention.

"I look not without uneasiness to the military measures; and more especially so, as I cannot help thinking that a little practicability in those who advance them might

obviate all embarrassment.

"The superintendent of the mail coaches is engaged in his tour through different parts of the island, and has sent to me a very satisfactory statement of his remarks on the harvests in prospective. I have forwarded it to Sir Joseph Bankes."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, May 13. Downing Street.—"I enclose copies of a letter from Vereker and of my answer. You will see he has taken his part decidedly with the Government, and I confess I think it desirable that his wishes should be complied with, at least as to the grant of the office. The question of the lands may be a separate one, and you certainly ought to know what it really is that is asked. If the value be not great except as it may affect borough interest at Limerick, the Lord Lieutenant will probably agree with me in thinking that the whole grant may not improperly be acceded to." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 14. Palace Yard.—"Though the opposition to the Slave Bill is much broken by the manner in which we have

quietly forwarded it to the third reading, I submit to you the propriety of circular notes for an attendance on Friday.

"I have received from Mr. Windham the communication of despatches of the 6th March from Sir Eyre Coote at Jamaica, expressing strongly and decidedly the necessity of continuing the importations on vessels from the United States; and without waiting for instructions, and in despite of Lord Camden's letter, he had actually continued the proclamation to the 31st December.

"In the mean time the Speaker is raising a doubt in his own mind whether our West India Bill must not originate

in the House of Commons.

"I wrote very seriously and explicitly to Mr. Chalmers on his indiscretion in making his clerkship and agency incompatible with each other. I received a long and penitential letter, full of attachment to the present government; and since, a request to resign his colony agency. He has in truth done no harm; but certainly was very culpable; but he is seventy."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 15. [Pall Mall.]—"I must return to the charge upon the subject of my friend Hippisley, especially after what you said of consulting the wishes of Lord Auckland. I really cannot consent that the wishes of Lord Auckland or anyone are to have anything to do in this, even if it had not been a point settled; and, as to the King, after the many gulps that he has taken, the peerages, the earldoms, the baronetcies, the jobs without number that he has swallowed, it will be very odd if he should be choked at last by appointing a person who is a baronet, a member of Parliament, a man of nine or ten thousand a year honourably acquired, and of marked qualifications for the situation in question, to a seat in the Committee of Council.

"It must be great want of skill in the hand that administers the dose, and which I put therefore entirely out of the

question.

"They have been questioning me, as you will see, to-day upon the subject of thanks for the Cape, to which I answered, as we had agreed; taking care to mark that it was from no want of impression as to the merit of the troops, who had done, and in the best manner, every thing that was to be done, and to whom it was not to be imputed that they had not more to do."

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to THE SAME.

1806, May 15. Clifford Street.—"I have great pleasure in expressing to you my strong persuasion that, if the period of military service should be extended to ten years during war, the measure will be carried by a great and satisfied

majority. All that I have heard since the last meeting of Cabinet has fully convinced me that the objection to the right of withdrawing at the expiration of seven years, in time of war, is nearly universal; though I am far from thinking that the numbers on a division would furnish any thing like a correct criterion of its prevlaence. On the contrary, the measure might be carried; but certainly not with zeal and good humour. I hope we shall meet soon to discuss this subject again; the sooner a decision is taken the better, as the knowledge of it will fix the wavering, but reconcile many who are now dissatisfied."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, May 17. Palace Yard.—"I will not trouble you with some very voluminous remonstrances from principal merchants in London, against including the town of Bremen in the letters of marque and reprisals; nor will I send to you the copies of a recent dispatch from Mr. Walpole, and of a letter from the Senate of Bremen, which Mr. Fox sent yesterday to the Council office. The substance of those papers is 'that Bremen claims to be considered in the same predicament as Hamburgh; that it is important to the people of Bremen to have permission for the Greenland whalers to proceed on their voyages; and that our commerce is deeply interested in keeping open the communication with Bremen.' I have answered to Mr. Hankey, Mr. Hayman, Sir Charles Price and several others who have applied to me on this subject, that so long as Bremen shall remain in the avowed possession of Prussian troops, I greatly doubt whether the King's Ministers will be of opinion that Bremen can be considered otherwise than as a place in the immediate control of Prussia. however, they are extremely urgent in their representations. I feel it necessary therefore to submit the subject through your Lordship to the Cabinet; and it occurs to me, whilst I am writing, that a middle course might be taken; that Bremen may for the present be taken out of the Order of Council for reprisals, but still remain subject to the embargo, until further advices shall be received. I incline to think that this would be the best mode. I have written to Mr. Fawkener and to Sir Francis Vincent to take care that the Gazette shall not be issued until the decision of Cabinet shall be

"Will you have the goodness to call the particular attention of Mr. Fox and Lord Henry Petty to the American Bill? If the Speaker shall think it necessary for our Bill to be laid aside, and to originate in the House of Commons (which I hope may not be the case), the standing order of the Commons will require that, as a commercial Bill, it must originate in a Committee of the whole House. It will on that committee be attempted by Mr. Rose and others to call witnesses to contravert the alledged necessity on which the Bill is grounded,

an attempt inconsistent with the notoriety of the fact, and with all the Acts of the last thirteen years. It is very desirable that such a proposal should be decidedly resisted.

"I have written this morning to Sir John Nicholl on some points which Lord Howick had mentioned to me respecting the blockade, and also as to the expediency of excepting the Baltic in the letters of marque."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 17. Camelford House.—"I send you a paper of observations which will furnish you with a general view of the questions respecting my government; as it is merely for private use, and has only been sent to some of my friends, I wish you would keep it in one of your boxes, and not suffer

it to be exposed upon your table.

"It is very desirable that Government should employ some effort to prevent the Court of Proprietors from coming to a sudden vote of censure upon me on Wednesday; my only wish is that they omit all mention of me for the present; I have no objection to any compliments which they may choose to pay to their Directors, provided they be not paid at my expense. Unless you give immediate directions to King, and speak to Lord Minto on this point, great mischief may arise; pray give your orders to-morrow; Wednesday next is the day."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, May 18. Palace Yard.—"I am this moment returned from an excursion in a crowded sociable to Eden Farm. I never saw my shrubberies, fields, trees, and garden in greater

beauty.

"But my temper was tried by an incursion on the part of the ship-owners, who are (in my opinion most unreasonably) importunate to have the blockade maintained vigorously against Danes, Hamburghers, Bremeners and Kniphauseners, in order to secure to British shipping the benefit of carrying cargoes to Tonningen [Tonning']. I declined entering much into the discussion, but I could not help intimating a doubt, whether the request made is not in substance a proposal to sacrifice the interests of many manufacturers and exporters to a narrow and precarious speculation in favour of a few shipowners. I referred the consideration to the Committee of Trade which meets to-morrow. If you think that my general view of the subject is erroneous, I shall be glad to have a line. I should add that the memorialists are not inconsiderable in any respect, and make up in earnestness what is wanting in fairness.

"I shall be at the Office for Trade to-morrow from half past eleven and probably for four hours; which I mention in case you should wish to see me. The King's Advocate will meet me there at one.

"Lord Holland has sent to me an application from a merehant who wishes to have a licence to trade direct from this country to St. Domingo. I have desired him to specify, whether in neutral or in British vessels. I presume that if the explanation shall open any new export for our manu-

factures, it ought to be encouraged.

"I wrote this morning to the Speaker to propose a special meeting of the trustees of the Hunterian Museum (I believe that you are one of them, ex officio) for the purpose of considering what can be done to make that valuable collection more useful. The Speaker, Lord Spencer, Sir Joseph Bankes, Lord St. Helens, Mr. Horne and Dr. Baillie concurred with the last year's trustees in some arrangements on this subject; but means are wanting, though the Corporation of Surgeons is liberal; and to-night Lord St. Helens informs me that the curators are appointed to wait on your lordship and Lord Henry Petty. If they should make out a case to deserve consideration, perhaps it would be best to make some reference to the trustees of the collection, or to hold a meeting.

"Another piece of business, as you want work! I wish, in some practicable hour, that you could receive Mr. Wyatt, the Speaker, and me as special commissioners for the West-

minster and Palace Yard improvements.

"Still further! there are at the Treasury our unanswered reports on the subject of 'locating lands in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick'; 'the bounty on Newfoundland fish'; 'the establishing of warehouses at Gibraltar and Malta'; 'the Marine Insurance proposal'; 'the expense of the building for the new Mint'; 'the silver coinage'; and other things. If I could meet you any day for one quiet hour with Mr. Vansittart, Mr. Harrison, and Mr. Wickham, I think that it might save much time, and be productive of some very important measures."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, May 18. Downing Street.—"We settled yesterday that Bremen should for the present be excepted from the order of reprisals. The order must therefore be altered to that effect before it is published.

"We have also fixed Tuesday instead of Monday for the second reading of the Parish Repeal Bill; this will give me one day more to keep my foot quiet, which will, I trust, be

sufficient." Copy.

THE SAME to C. J. Fox.

1806, May 19. Downing Street.—"I enclose a letter from Lord Lauderdale. I trust it is impossible he could imagine that, in desiring Lord Minto to converse with him on the business in question, I had any other idea than of our governing ourselves entirely by his wishes in a matter in which he is so much concerned.

"Whether his name is negatived on being formally proposed, or is withdrawn after having been so much brought into question, the defeat of the government is equally manifest.

"I have not the smallest hesitation as to vacating Sir G. Barlow's appointment. If this is done I can hardly conceive that the Directors can find any fit person who would undertake the situation in known opposition to the wishes of government; but such names might certainly be put forward as it would be

difficult for us to object to.

"If the Directors would be content with their present triumph, and would agree to send Lauderdale out in October, that might be worth accepting as a compromise rather than that we should be wholly defeated. But this is not at all likely, as I understand; and indeed what I mentioned to you from the beginning of the spirit which has been raised up among the Directors by the countenance which has been shewn them in their attack on Lord Wellesley is, I think, daily becoming more manifest. Their intention is to resume for themselves, and win for the Court of Proprietors that share of the political government of India, which it was the opinion of all parties in 1784 to take from them.

"Pray let me know what you think can be done, and whether the business ought to be allowed to come on to-morrow or not. I shall be at home till two, and am then going to drive out for an hour or two, not being yet stout enough on

my legs to be able to walk." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, May 19. Downing Street.—"I am as little disposed in this case as in any other to give in to Lord Hawkesbury's doctrine that commerce is to be sacrificed to navigation, the

principal to the accessory.

"I can see no objection to granting to any of our merchants licenses to trade to St. Domingo. Indeed I a little doubted whether this could not be best done by an Order in Council declaring the trade free to those parts of that island which are not in the possession of the King's enemies.

"There is a consideration which Wickham would explain to you, whenever he sees you, and which makes me think that we must have an Act of Parliament to legalize all voyages made under such licenses. I had desired him to converse with the King's Advocate upon it. If he should be at the Treasury to-day, when Sir J[ohn] N[icholls] is with you, you had best send to him.

"I have settled with Lord Henry Petty to see a deputation from the College of Surgeons to-morrow. They will leave a petition with us. I am not aware that any meeting of trustees will be wanted here, but if it is, we could hold it here

any morning this week.

"The Palace Yard improvements I am much interested in, and wish you would fix with the Speaker any morning that you and he could call here, provided it is before twelve.

"You oblige me much by sending me notices of all unanswered business at the Treasury, as I have determined to make that Office as remarkable for punctuality as it has hitherto been for the contrary." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, May 20. Dublin Castle.—" John Claudius Beresford is going very soon to London, and will call on you. As you will be able to ascertain from Lord Ponsonby his view of the local interest of his family, you will have the means of deciding the relation in which Government is to stand with respect to Lord Waterford. The Beresfords begin to be impatient for an answer, as all their connections, with the exception of Lord George, have hitherto withdrawn themselves from Parliament, and they will not like to remain much longer

in a state of neutrality.

"Mr. Knox, the candidate for the county of Tyrone, has taken his departure for England. As a life has lately fallen in, upon which much of Lord Abercorn's influence, both in Donegal and Tyrone, depended, it is thought Mr. Knox has a fair prospect of success. His object is to obtain through the interference of Government the support of Lord Belmore, Lord Caledon, and Lord Mountjoy, and Mr. Stewart's second votes. Lord Belmore is in London, and would I am convinced, if you were to ask him, give his interest to Mr. Knox; and Lord Caledon might be secured through Alexander, the chairman of the Committee of Supply. Stewart's second votes also might possibly be procured by the intervention of Fox. Lord Abercorn is decidedly hostile to the present Administration, I imagine you will deem it advantageous to countenance Knox's pretensions; in which case it will be highly desirable that you should have an early communication with him. He is, I believe, related to Lord Spencer.

"The salary and the rent of the lands annexed to the office of Constable of the Castle of Limerick amount together to about 800l. per annum. The lands are inseparable from the office. As Cockayne, the present constable, has not taken any active share in politicks, the Duke of Bedford felt scrupulous about depriving him of his office, lest the precedent of his removal should induce very embarassing claims for other

dismissals."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, May 20. Palace Yard.—"The Chancellor and I were driven yesterday to a discussion of more than an hour with Lord Stanhope; who insists on the printing of the Bank books, from which some extracts were given at the trial. We objected

the length, inutility, irrelevancy, delay, and also the inconvenience of publishing such accounts beyond what is necessary in the opinion either of the managers or defendant. At last we divided, seven to one; and then he gave notice that he would bring the same subject forward to-day in the form of a complaint against the printers for not having obeyed my original motion to print the 'evidence parole and in writing.' All which I mention as I am not likely to be at the House till towards seven o'clock. I am obliged this morning to attend a Land Tax Board, and also to be at the Council Office on the quarantine laws, after which I want a couple of hours for some domestic matters.

"I must trouble you when convenient to let me know the King's pleasure on the 16,000l. per annum to the Prince of

Orange.

"We have struck Bremen out of the order of Council for reprisals; the next difficulty is how to erase it from the instrument under the Great Seal. Sir John Nicholl is very much indisposed, and cannot give his assistance. Still, however, at some risk of small mistakes, I made a large clearance yesterday."

W. Wilberforce to Lord Grenville.

1806, May 20. Palace Yard.—"Your last friendly note touched a string which had already begun to vibrate in my heart, since the decision of the lords on the Foreign Slave Bill, and I have been ruminating on the subject myself, and as opportunity offered, have been talking it over with a very few intelligent friends of sentiments congenial to my own. Mr. William Smith I find has been talking the matter over with Mr. Fox, who, as Mr. Smith told me, said he would consult with your lordship on the expediency of trying the main question in this session. Mr. Stephen, who is accustomed to think and state his opinions on paper more than in any other way, has sent me a manuscript which states very clearly some of the leading considerations, though I own in my judgment not all of them, especially not all those which might be urged in favour of the attempt. It contains nothing which will not have occurred to your lordship's own mind, if you have reflected on all the subject, but as the perusal of it will take only a few moments, I will enclose it, that your lordship may run it over if you please. I own that, considering all the unknown possibilities of things, I cannot help assigning great weight to the consideration of the present time being, in some respects of leading importance, less unfavourable (for I dare not use a stronger term) than possibly (I sincerely hope it is only possibly and not probably) next year will be. An idea however has forcibly struck my own mind which I wish your lordship to consider very seriously; it is, that if the measure is to be brought forward at all, it had better be, not by me, but by Mr. Fox. The circumstance of your patronizing the measure in the House of Lords and Mr. Fox in the House of Commons will have, I trust, great weight in neutralizing some, who might otherwise be active enemies, and in converting into decided friends, some who might otherwise be neutral. I have for many years heard it stated, an objection which this arrangement would remove; and I am sure I need not say to your lordship, that if the measure itself should receive, as I think it would, material benefit from my relinquishing the conduct of it, I should be far more than compensated for the personal sacrifice. I have just thrown out this idea to Mr. Fox in the House of Commons and he said he would turn it in his mind. Let me only use the freedom to suggest that if the measure be to come forward

at all this session, no time is to be lost.

"I will also mention another conception which has occurred to me, as possibly not a bad resource, if on actually trying the measure, we find more objections and difficulties than we now anticipate to arise. is, that we might in that event, accede to the wishes of some of the lords, and remit the subject to a committee of enquiry above stairs, which might commence at least, and prosecute to a certain degree its labours, though it should not be able to bring them to a conclusion. Indeed, if farther examination be to be allowed, which I own I deprecate (and I admired your laying in betimes your objection to the unreasonableness of it the other night) it never can be finished in the same session in which it begins, and therefore it may not be amiss to make a beginning, that when the next session commences we may be so far on our journey; but, as I have already said, I see many objections to remedying enquiry.

"I ought to apologize for such a desultory letter, but I know that both from your zeal for the cause, and your friendly feelings towards myself, you will construe it kindly. May the great disposer of all events direct you to a right conclusion, and in this and many other instances render your administration a blessing not only to your own country, but to the whole

world."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, May 21. Downing Street.—"Lord Longueville has voted against us by proxy in the House of Lords and Colonel Longfield in the House of Commons. Would there be any serious inconvenience to Government in considering him as an enemy and acting towards him accordingly?

"Sir L. Parsons is absent though in office. Is there any reason for this that ought reasonably to be admitted. Are there any other absentees of a similar description that you know of?

Why was Lord O'Neile's proxy against us." Copy.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, May 21. Downing Street.—"Mr. Bisset who is a prebendary of Armagh was a fellow collegian of mine, and I lived much with him. I believe him to be a person of character such as would do credit to the favour of Government, and as such, I have recommended him to five or six successive Lords Lieutenant, but regency and union have always stood in the way. He has preferment besides his prebend, and would not therefore be entirely a burden on Government in any thing they could do for him; and if, on enquiry, he appears as deserving as I believe him, it would really give me much pleasure to have been of use to him. I wrote a few lines on this subject to-day to the Duke of Bedford, and I have desired Bisset to call upon you when he returns to Ireland, and to state to you his situation and views, being very sure that, as far as he can be assisted, you will be glad to do it for my sake." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 21. Palace Yard.—"You will have learned that, including proxies, we divided ninety-seven to forty. It was meant on the part of our opponents to be a trial of strength; every exertion had been used, and Messrs. Canning, Long, Huskisson attended to see the result. The royal dukes divided with us, except the dukes of York and Cumberland who went away. Lords Arden and St. Helens were absent, and with proxies in their pockets. Only two bishops present,

Clonfert and Bristol; twenty-eight absent!!!

"I recollect the following in the minority; Dukes of Buccleugh, Beaufort and Montrose; Lords Abercorne, Aboyne, Bathurst, Bridgewater, Breadalbane, Camden, Chatham, Caledon (with Lord O'Neile's proxy), Douglas, Glasgow, Eliot, Eldon, Hawkesbury, Hertford, Limerick, Lowther, Montagu, Hardwicke, Montrose, Powys, Rutland, Rolle, Mulgrave, St. Asaph, Westmoreland. The Committee will not be opposed to-day, but these are earnest preparations to make a better appearance on the army measure.

"Could you appoint the Speaker and me to-morrow, any time between ten and twelve for a few minutes; after which I would leave him with you?

"What answer shall I give to the Princess of Orange?

"If I do not hear to the contrary to-day before twelve, I will suppose that the Lubeck vessels are to be released.

There are nine under embargo.

"It is certainly deserving of consideration whether an order should not be issued as to St. Domingo, of the kind mentioned in your lordship's note. In the mean time we will give the licenses."

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES to THE SAME.

1806, May 21. Carlton House.—"I am this morning favoured with your obliging note, and if the business presses extremely, I will be with your lordship between nine and ten o'clock to-morrow morning; but, should it admit of any small delay, I will be with you in Downing Street in the evening towards ten o'clock; but I must insist upon your not stirring out, as it may materially retard your recovery, which is most essential to the public."

LORD GRENVILLE to HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, May 21. Downing Street.—"I am this moment honoured with your Royal Highness's most gracious and condescending letter, and beg leave to assure your Royal Highness how deeply sensible I am of your great goodness in allowing me to have the honour of seeing your Royal Highness here. The business which I wished to be allowed to mention is by no means of so pressing a nature as to be intruded on your Royal Highness at any time not perfectly convenient. And I would therefore be at your Royal Highness's order either at the hour to-morrow evening which is mentioned in the letter I have just had the honour to receive, or at any time on Friday that your Royal Highness may prefer." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 21. Windsor Castle.—"The King entirely approves of the pension of sixteen thousand pounds per annum being continued to the present Prince of Orange, as he considers that the losses which that family has sustained fully entitle it to the support of this country. His Majesty regrets that Lord Grenville still suffers from his accident. It had been his intention to have put into Lord Grenville's hands the enclosed correspondence, but not to have spoken to him upon it until he should have had time to consider the subject fully. It is now sent for his perusal, in order that he may be prepared for what His Majesty may have to say to him when next he sees him."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, May 21. [Pall Mall.]—"Though the Volunteer estimate has been drawn up according to the original plan, there would be no difficulty, I apprehend, on that account, the sum being nearly the same, of making the change, if it were thought desirable, suggested by Lord Winchelsea. But I cannot conceive that any change is now necessary, or that that would be an eligible one. The argument that we do not wish to disband the Volunteer corps, and that the sum

before allowed, 20s. will not supply their clothing, would go to this; that, under the principle of not wishing to disband them, we must augment their allowances to whatever amount was necessary for keeping them together. This augmentation we should make under Lord Winchelsea's suggestion; for it is in fact to augment their allowance, to give them the same sum with a diminution of their duty. Part of Lord Winchelsea's plan is to allow for a day's exercise 1s. 6d., instead of 1s., upon the sole condition of the days of exercise being successive, which in towns would be a mere boon of 6d.

a day.

"But the great objection to the measure is the principle of it; I mean that of paying the rich for doing, in their own way what the poor are obliged to do in the way prescribed by the law. Allowances to Volunteers at all are sufficiently liable to this objection, and were opened therefore by me in a way to betray a consciousness of its force. One was obliged to make a sort of shuffling plea that it was granted in consideration of their former services. But the proposed alteration goes to that point, and to nothing else. to have an increased allowance for clothing, while their days of exercise are to be reduced not only below what they were, taking in the days of inspection, but below those of the trained men. It will not be the fact, either, that the corps will generally disband for want of an additional allowance for clothing. They will clothe themselves in a cheaper manner; they will continue for some time to wear their old clothing; many of them have remains of their former subscriptions. The fact, I believe, will be that, between these considerations and the effect of the Training Act, the number of the Volunteers will remain quite as great as it can be wished

"Part of what is said above will apply to another question, not necessary to be now discussed, of the regulations to be made for Volunteers corps with a view to their exemptions. If the condition of exemption is mere service, you will fill the corps with not the most eligible class of people. If part is to be expense, it is Parliament that must regulate what it should be.

"The mode of carrying into execution the Training Act as between the Lords Licutenant and the Inspector General, where a choice might exist, I do not like to contend about. Take care only that, by throwing too much into the hands of Lords Lieutenant instead of an Office that works for pay, must submit to directions, and is at the distance of a few streets, you do not risk to a great degree the success of the whole measure.

"I am amazingly afraid that the alteration made in the principal measure, in the extent to which it is carried, will not be for its good. I am sure it will not be for the credit of the proposers. I will never undertake to maintain that three

years is only an extension of the principle contained in six months. A little more would prove that we might continue, without a departure from our principle, to enlist men as we do.

"I cannot say that I like the prospect of to-day, when this and other of our changes must in part be disclosed."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 22. Palace Yard.—"Consistently with the licenses which we have granted and are granting to other mercantile houses, we can in some respects do more than Sir Francis Baring desires. In other parts of his requisition, he

should not urge us beyond our usual restrictions.

"We yesterday gave to Mr. Buller a licence to a considerable amount to send in a neutral vessel from Cadiz to Spanish America a cargo of British manufactures, with an assortment of foreign goods not to exceed $\frac{1}{8}$ of the whole (he pressed hard for \(\frac{1}{4}\); such cargo not being enemy's property. The restriction last stated is necessary for the protection of the cargo. The articles in Sir Francis Baring's specification might all be brought within the proportion required, except perhaps quicksilver, in which he might (I think) be accommodated. He might also be allowed by the licenses to bring back not merely the amount of the proceeds of the outward bound cargo in cochineal, but also any quantity of silver to the extent of double the value of the outward bound cargo, such silver not being enemy's property; and the license may be in force for eighteen months. It would be necessary that a secret memorial should be sent to the Council (through your lordship or to me) as the particulars of these transactions must be duly registered. And the memorial should exhibit the estimated value of the British manufactures proposed to be sent. The King's Advocate is to meet me at the Office for Trade to-morrow about twelve o'clock, and would settle the details. A specification of the cargo must also be endorsed on the licenses.

"The Committee of Council addressed yesterday a short minute to the Treasury, recommending a bill to be brought in this session into Parliament (by Lord H. Petty or Sir John Newport) to give a free intercourse and interchange respecting every species of grain between Great Britain and Ireland; such bill to be printed and circulated in order to its being resumed and carried into effect in the next session; and consequently to make a further and important step towards the completion of the Union. These are imperial works.

"I suppose that Lord Howick has fully apprised you of a plan which we are concocting relative to Greenwich Hospital,

and the Chest of Chatham.

"The Duke of Montrose means to make a (peevish) attack to-day on the Franking Act. I think that I can meet it, without troubling your lordship to come to the House.

"The Speaker and I are to attend you to-day at half before twelve."

LORD ERSKINE to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 22.—" As my friend Mr. Phineas Bond owes all his fortunes to your lordship, and as I know that he feels as he ought to do upon that subject, I take the liberty to ask your protection for him upon the only occasion which may present itself for his return to Europe, which he has long been most anxious to accomplish; I mean the establishment mentioned last night by Lord Henry Petty in the House of Commons. Mr. Bond has now been many years in America, and has served this country and felt all its claims in that country perhaps too acutely; because he has an enthusiasm for every British interest, which makes him almost too stubborn for the present condition of things. He is a most able accountant, and perhaps better qualified for the office of a commissioner than any man that could be found; and as Government has uniformly made provision for faithful servants, it would not only afford an opportunity of doing it without burthen to the public, but without even any weight on the patronage of Government, as his office, which is generally for life, would become vacant, and would be, for many, a far more eligible appointment than the one to which Mr. Bond would be removed.

"I should have, perhaps, acquainted myself first as to whether this matter was in your lordship's department before I gave you the trouble of reading my letter; but as the head of his Majesty's councils, I consider nothing to be out of it, and that a word from your lordship would be decisive. There is yet another advantage. The situation of America is most critical, and we may have negociations there of a very critical nature upon principles which may require some change of persons. I asked my friend Mr. Fox in a most anxious manner, three months ago, to send my eldest son as envoy. not as ambassador, to America, and he seemed to think that his connection with Mr. Bond would be unfavourable. His connection with him is nothing but affection. He has no influence that could disturb him in the exercise of his duties. He is 32 years of age, has been four years in America, is acquainted intimately with all the considerable persons there, and his wife's family are most extensively connected, and I can venture to be quite sure that it would be a most popular appointment. I only mention it to your lordship as it is connected with the subject of Phineas Bond, because whatever Mr. Fox does or forbears from doing will be equally satisfactory to me, having the most perfect reliance on his friendship, and never wishing that any relation or friend of mine should receive anything from Government unless where they were capable of being more eminently useful to the public than others standing in competition with them."

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to THE SAME.

1806, May 22. Clifford Street.—" Bathurst has just called upon me to express his earnest and anxious wish that his brother may be appointed one of the additional commissioners for auditing the public accounts. He is *eminently* qualified for such a situation. Of his good sense, his talents for business, and industry, I can confidently speak from personal knowledge and experience. I should have called to-day in Downing Street, but am far from well."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, May 23. Palace Yard.—"The blank license shall be sent to you this morning, in a form to be communicated. The parties will have a very profitable speculation, but of course would have been glad to have had it on terms still

more profitable.

"Having two sons well worthy to be employed, I certainly am not bound to advert to the sons of others; but it just occurs to me (though I suppose too late) that Charles Moore would have been well suited to the new commission of military accounts. He is independent in fortune, of the fairest moral character, and highly esteemed by Mr. Canning, and his contemporaries. His late father had a sort of promise to some appointment for him from Lord Sidmouth. I know nothing of his views, nor how far he now looks to any office of this description, but I should not be sorry to see him out of Parliament; and he is aware, I believe, that his seat at Heytesbury will, at the next election, go to my son, who is zealously attached to your Government, and to all its connections, and who by his character and activity of mind would materially contribute to keep the Woodstock and Oxford representations, and many others, in the right line.

"The Duke of Montrose yesterday had the prudence to withdraw all opposition to the Franking Bill; but his bench was well filled, and with a disposition to give us as much

trouble as possible on every subject."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, May 25. Rochampton.—"I have had this morning, for my sins, a very long visit from M. de Jacobi; and he seemed desirous to proceed to Dropmore, but I recommended to him rather to write to you, and I am persuaded you will

think that I gave good advice.

"He is desirous that permission should be given to the Prussian Company at Embden to send through our line of blockade about three score vessels employed annually in the herring fishery, and to return with their cargoes unmolested. He used all his eloquence to persuade me that such a complaisance on our part would not only do honour to the cause of humanity, but would conciliate the mind of the King of

Prussia. I apprised him, that I was not ignorant that the produce of the fishery in question, though partly for the sustenance of the poorer classes in Germany, is a principal article of sustenance (during a part of the year) for the Prussian army. In the result, and after an interchange of much persifflage (unavoidable in all conversations with Jacobi) I told him that the permission in question was entirely une affaire d'état; that if your lordship and his Majesty's confidential ministers could reconcile it to policy as well as to philanthropy to accede to what is asked, there would be no delay in the details to be done either at the Council Office or the Admiralty. We parted with the following words: 'Mais, Milord, au moins la moitié.' 'Mais, M. le Baron, sous le Gouvernement actuel, on ne fait pas des choses à moitié. Tout ou rien.'

"I have written a few lines to Mr. Fox, and shall be glad to know what you decide, on or before Wednesday. I have

also written to the King's Advocate.

"Buonaparte will some fine morning take some new turn as to the northern commerce, which may overset all that we are doing. In the mean time, in so anomalous a mode of making war, new embarrassments are arising from hour to hour; and I receive great assistance from the Advocate in parrying or modifying them. What shall we do as to our licenses to trade with France and Spain in neutral ships? Those licenses have hitherto excepted blockaded ports. We had, prior to the order for reprisals, given several licenses to Prussian vessels to go to Holland. Some of those vessels not having sailed, though laden, are detained by the Customs as having ceased to be neutrals. I have, however, desired the Customs to give the clearances pro hâc vice, and hope to be obeyed.

"I have had an opportunity of speaking to Foster about the Irish Corn Bill; he promises as far as he can pledge himself for anything, to give it his best support. The sooner it may be brought in the better, either by direction to your Solicitor,

or by sending it back to us to prepare it."

LORD ELLENBOROUGH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 24. Bloomsbury Square.—"As I am satisfied that your lordship will, in the execution of the proposed plan for the examination of Public Accounts, be anxiously desirous of selecting the fittest persons in respect of talents and integrity for the situation of Commissioner, I trust you will forgive the liberty I take in handing to your lordship the enclosed recommendation and voucher in favour of a very worthy, intelligent, and respectable man, Mr. William Burn, whom I have long known through the late Chief Baron Skynner who married his sister, and through the Archbishop of York, in whose family I am in the habit of meeting him. "The person whose recommendation and voucher I venture

to transmit to your lordship is that of my brother, Mr. Ewan

Law, a principal member, as your lordship probably knows, of the Commission of Naval Enquiry, whose zeal, industry, and usefulness in the detection of public abuses are, I believe, unquestioned, and give his representations on such a subject a fair claim to be attended to.

"Mr. Burn is a gentleman of decent private fortune, and both by his principles and situation far removed from any temptation to do wrong in the execution of such a trust. For his ability to execute the duties of it, my brother seems to have had the most satisfactory means of knowledge; and to his voucher on this subject I beg leave to refer your lordship."

Enclosing:—

A letter signed E. Law, recommending Mr. William Burn to the post of commissioner for the examination of public accounts.

Private. EARL SPENCER to THE SAME.

1806, May 24. Whitehall.—"I received late last night the accompanying letters from Elliot, upon which I shall be glad to have your opinion before I return any answer to them. I called this morning in Downing Street in hopes to have seen

you before you set off, but you were flown.

"I wished to have spoken to you on another matter in which I am involved, and upon which I believe something has been said to you either by Lord Bathurst or some other of Pitt's intimate friends. It is relative to the placing of a statue of him, for which a subscription was raised in London in the year 1801, and which has never yet been settled. I am going this morning to attend a meeting at Angerstein's, who are to consider on the subject. My decided opinion upon it formerly was to have recommended to the subscribers to ask permission to place the statue in the Senate House at Cambridge; but now that another still larger subscription has been raised in the University for that purpose, that scheme is precluded; and it therefore, I think, only remains to place it in St. Paul's, which I intend to propose to-day. Any other situation would, I fear, be attended with objections and inconveniences to which, in a matter of this sort especially, it would be far better not to be exposed. I am going to Wimbledon this afternoon, and shall stay there, if I can, till Wednesday morning."

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to THE SAME.

1806, May 25. Brighton.—"Finding by the papers that the new commission for auditing accounts is to consist of ten members, allow me to mention the name of Mr. Baldwin, a son of Mr. Baldwin of Lord Spencer's Office, as a person capable from education and early habits to fill, with advantage to the object in view, one of the appointments. The long

friendship and attachment of the father to me, makes me anxious in a great degree, to make some return by being useful to his family; the present occasion seems to offer the opportunity; if it can be done, I shall hold it a mark of your friendship for me."

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 25. Clifford Street.—"I called yesterday in Downing Street and learnt that you were gone to Dropmore. My chief purpose was to inform you that my friend B. Bouverie had thoughts of resigning his situation as one of the commissioners of public accounts, and to express my very earnest hope that, in that event, William Bragge—Bathurst's brother—might be appointed to succeed him. The truth is that, on W. Bragge's account, I feel an anxiety that is extremely painful to me. If I could have followed my own wishes, he would have been the first person whom I should have appointed to a seat at one of the Boards; but it so happened that, during a period of near three years and a half, not a single opportunity occurred of which I could avail myself for that purpose; with the particular causes which frustrated my wishes, it is unnecessary to trouble you. Of his qualifications I cannot speak more highly than I really think of them, but I am glad to find that he is not altogether unknown to you."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, May 25. Beaconsfield.—" I find by the messenger who has brought me the enclosed, and is going on to you, that we have been nearer neighbours than I had supposed. If my stay here had not been so short (I came only last night, and return to-morrow morning) I should have rode over to Dropmore to ascertain the fact.

"Lord Minto's letter is the consequence of a conversation which we have had, and, I am glad to find, holds out the immediate prospect of accomplishing what we had in view, at least as to the experiment. As to the modes of raising the regiment, they all seem so good, that I have at present hardly an opinion in favour of one more than of another. To borrow a regiment already raised would be the easiest and the readiest; and hereafter, if the experiment succeeded, the natural and best course would seem to be to raise them at once for the king's service. But upon this point one would take counsel. I shall probably have an opportunity of hearing some opinions upon that subject to-morrow.

"It will be [a] grand point gained if we can accomplish the measure of garrisoning a part of our distant possessions by troops drawn from our Indian population. With a view to this in its immediate application, as well as to some objects that come into contemplation at the same moment, I should rather have my governor of the Cape, than the one that we last talked of. I have been wanting to talk to Sir Arthur Wellesley, as you may have an opportunity of doing to Lord Wellesley, about the possibility of an attempt on the Mauritius; for which the accumulation of a force of British and sepoys at the Cape might furnish a good opportunity.

"As the messenger, I find, is waiting here, I will not prolong my letter further than to say a word upon a quite different subject, namely, whether one of these new commissionerships may not furnish an opportunity of doing something for Craufurd, to whom I have no immediate prospect of being able to offer anything which he would like to accept (I have offered to him the deputy governorship of the Cape) and whom you will feel as desirous to provide for, as I can be. The objection, however, upon recollection, will here present itself, namely, that the appointment will not be consistent with his seat in Parliament."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, May 26. Dublin Castle.—"You may be sure that I shall not fail to pay all the attention in my power to Mr. Bisset, or to any person about whom you may interest yourself.

"I will speak without delay to the Lord Lieutenant about Lord Longford and Colonel Longfield. The most convenient hostility we can show them will be to exclude Mr. Longfield (Col. Longfield's son) from the Revenue Board, when we make the new arrangement.

"Lord O'Niell is a man likely to take his own course in politics, and we have no means of establishing a communication with him. Perhaps you might get at him through Isaac

Corry, who used to have some influence over him.

"Sir Lawrence Parsons has resisted several urgent applications which have been made to him for attendance, alleging that he could not leave Lady Parsons who has been dangerously ill. However she is now, I believe, so much recovered that I do not think the state of her health is a sufficient excuse for his absence. I wrote to him on Thursday to request he would go over for the division which is expected on the 30th, and not having received an answer, I this morning dispatched a messenger with another letter to him. As his country-house is 60 miles from town, I fear he will now be too late to vote on the 30th.

"I was much concerned at hearing of your accident, but

trust you are now released from your confinement."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, May 26. St. Anne's Hill.—"I enclose you a note of Count Starhemberg's, who is not, I believe, more importunate than the orders of his Court oblige him to be. He has proposed before the *quantum* of the subsidy due can be ascertained, to

have something upon account; and, if anything can be done in that way, I shall be very glad, because I feel it most desirable to show our liberal disposition towards his unfortunate Court; and events may occur that may make giving them any money liable to the construction of giving it to the enemy. Such constructions I do not much regard, but others may.

"You mentioned two papers of Sir Evan Nepean's. I can find but one, but it is possible that by some carelessness I left the other in London. The one I have is from a Mr. Williamson of whom I had heard before, and who had written to another correspondent to the same effect as he has written to Nepean.

"I understand Lord King has applied in favour of Page of Pointers to be one of the new Commissioners. He is a man very fit for business, and would, I am sure, not be wanting in diligence, and he is also a person whom I should much wish to oblige. I should not send all this to you at Dropmore, if I did not want very much to know at what time I must be in town Wednesday morning to meet you on the unpleasant business we talked of when we met last. I suppose not later than eleven, but, if earlier, pray let me know."

Postscript.—"I find that I have put Starhemberg's note into the fire by mistake; it was only a dun of the most

pressing kind."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, May 26. Dropmore.—"I am very grateful to you for saving me the visit of my old friend Jacobi. I cannot see any reason to comply with his request, which would remove the pressure from Prussia in one of the few cases where we

can press them without injuring ourselves.

"I think you had best propose to Sir John Newport to assist at your Board, and make an order to your people to prepare it. They do such things much better than Treasury solicitors. I am as anxious as you to expedite the measure, and I earnestly hope there can be no necessity to put it off for another year." Copy.

THE SAME to VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.

1806, May 26. Dropmore.—"I have a very earnest desire on your account, on Mr. Bathurst's, and I may add on my own, to comply with your wish of naming his brother as one of the new commissioners, and, if the thing be possible, I certainly will do it; but you will easily guess how much I am importuned for a situation for which everybody thinks himself qualified. I have heard nothing yet of Mr. Bouverie's resignation." Copy.

LORD HENRY PETTY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 26. Bolton Street.—"As the enclosed letters are, I presume, intended for whoever appoints the Commis-

sioners of Accounts, and relate to persons whose claims may be deserving of consideration, I think it right to forward them to you, although I am aware that the arrangement is nearly completed; and I must add that the only person I meant to recommend from my personal knowledge of his fitness for the situation was Mr. Abercromby.

"I also enclose a letter from Lord Nelson expressing his wish that Mr. Hazlewood may be named one of the trustees. There is a report, but I do not know with what foundation, of an intention on the part of the East India Company of

addressing the King not to recall Sir G. Barlow."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, May 26. Dropmore.—"I am very sorry that I did not know yesterday that you were at Beaconsfield, as I was close to it.

"I rejoice at the prospect of employment of sepoys at the Cape. As to the mode, I should much wish to talk both with Lord Wellesley and his brother, and for that purpose, I should be glad if you could return me Lord Minto's letter to you for a few days. The next point will be to ascertain what can really be done about black corps for West Indian service, a measure both of humanity and economy, and tending to give us that species of force which must ultimately ensure the possession of those islands to those powers which first avails itself of so manifest an advantage. The example of St. Domingo, and the triumph of the blacks there over both English and French armies, is, I think, conclusive as to this view of the subject.

"I wish what you mention about Craufurd were practicable,

but you see the difficulty yourself."

Postscript.—"The inclination of my own mind would be to borrow sepoy regiments from the Company, provided that the whole of a regiment could be expected to volunteer. If not, perhaps the vacancies might be supplied by general enlisting there; but I suppose it would not be so good to introduce there too much of our English notions of volunteering for this or that particular service." Copy.

THE SAME to LORD HENRY PETTY.

1806, May 27. Dropmore.—" I fear the applications already made on the subject of the Commission of Audit are too numerous to leave any chance of inserting any of the names mentioned in the letters I have this morning received from you, though certainly some of them are well entitled to attention. If it is possible to include Abercromby I certainly will. I can see no objection to naming Hazlewood as one of the Nelson trustees.

"We shall, I hope, be beforehand with the East India

Company as to Barlow's recall." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, May 27. Dropmore.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit for your Majesty's royal signature, if approved, an instrument vacating the appointment of Sir George Barlow, as Governor-General of your Majesty's dominions in the East Indies.

"The circumstances of the case are as follows:—In the first days after your Majesty had been pleased to form your Majesty's present administration, advices were received of the death of the Marquis Cornwallis; and as it was apprehended that in consequence of this event, for which no provision had been made, the public service might materially suffer from the want of a person invested with sufficient powers to act in India as occasion might require, it was judged expedient to recommend to the Court of Directors that Sir George Barlow might immediately be appointed Governor-General. But when this was done, it was at the same time distinctly explained to the Directors that the measure was merely provisional, and was to have effect only until there should be time to consider of a permanent arrangement.

"It has accordingly been recently recommended to the Directors that they should revoke this appointment with the view of appointing the Earl of Lauderdale. But they have declined to comply with this proposal, partly from objections alleged by some of them against the person recommended, but more, it is believed, from a desire to retain one of their own servants in that high station, a system of governing India the objections to which are obvious on the slightest consideration, and have repeatedly been demonstrated by

"The same law which vests in the Directors the power of appointing a Governor-General gives to your Majesty that of vacating all such appointments. And your Majesty's servants humbly conceive that there can exist few occasions more proper for the exercise of that power than one where an appointment originally understood to be merely temporary is adhered to, for the purpose, as it is supposed, of keeping the Government of India in the hands of a Company's servant. It is hoped that when this object shall have been frustrated, there will no longer exist any considerable difficulty as to the appointment of the Earl of Lauderdale, who is unquestionably a person eminently fitted for that station. But whatever may be the appointment to which the present step may lead, your Majesty's servants cannot hesitate a moment in humbly submitting to your Majesty their clear and decided opinion that the Government ought not, in the present critical circumstances, to be left in the hands of Sir George Barlow; and it is on this ground that Lord Grenville has taken the liberty to lay before your Majesty the enclosed instrument of revocation, which, if your Majesty shall be graciously pleased

to approve the measure, will afterwards, as the Act of Parliament requires, be countersigned by the President of

the Board of Control.

"Lord Grenville begs leave to add that he has carefully read the papers which your Majesty has done him the honour of transmitting to him, and that he hopes to be able (though still very lame) to pay his duty to your Majesty to-morrow, and to receive your Majesty's commands on the subject to which they relate." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, May 27. Dropmore.—"Though the new commission will consist of ten members, we shall have only four to add, six being already the number of the existing boards. The applications for these are so numerous and pressing that I really fear it will be impossible for me to include Mr. Baldwin in the general commission. Perhaps there might be an opening in the commission for the West Indies, the members of which are to go there in rotation, but even of this I am not sure; and possibly the climate may be an objection to his wishing it.

"I hope I need not say how truly anxious I am to take every opportunity that can enable me to do anything agreeable to you." Holograph draft.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 28. [Pall Mall.]—"I return you Lord Minto's The object I have not lost sight of, though it is difficult to say what can at this moment be done upon it, unless it be the obtaining a temporary and limited supply upon the breaking up of the settlement at Sierra Leone, which,

I am afraid, will be found necessary.

"I have a large volume of correspondence from my friend Colonel Stevenson, which I have kept for some time as a readier way of getting at his ideas than by conversation; but I have at length taken the course of referring it to Colonel Craufurd. His ideas however go to nothing immediate; nor can there, I apprehend, be much done in respect to recruiting free negroes unless we should take possession of Senegal. Even then the success may be doubtful. That, however, is an experiment to be tried.

'I am come to town early this morning upon hearing that Fox had said in the House that the clauses intended to be inserted in the Mutiny Bill should be previously printed. The clause for the extension of service in time of war may stand in substance thus, I think; 'such additional period as the King shall direct; provided always that such period shall in no case exceed three years, and shall at any time cease and determine at the end of six months of continued peace.'

"I have never talked to the King upon any of these points since our first communication; he never having mentioned

the subject to me. Is it necessary?

"The settlement at Sierra Leone must, I fear, be given up; that is, can hardly be undertaken by Government. It is very up-hill work, with hardly any prospect of ever reaching the summit."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, May 29. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to acquaint your Majesty that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has been pleased to inform him of his having received a letter from Mrs. Campbell, expressing her wish to resign her situation as governess to the Princess Charlotte: and his Royal Highness has, at the same time, laid his orders upon Lord Grenville to lay before your Majesty his humble request to be permitted to submit to your Majesty the name of Mrs. Garth for that situation, she being a person whom his Royal Highness has reason to believe your Majesty approves of, and who, having originally been about the Princess Charlotte, was removed only in order to be placed in a better situation, though one inferior to that which the Prince would, with your Majesty's permission, now propose to her. His Royal Highness has further directed Lord Grenville to add that he has not mentioned the subject to Mrs. Garth till he should be apprized of your Majesty's pleasure upon it." Copy.

Enclosing two letters:—

No. 1.—H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 29. Carlton House.—"I enclose to your lordship Mrs. Campbell's letter of resignation, entreating of you to forward it to his Majesty as early to-morrow morning as may be convenient, together with my humble hope that Miss Garth, who has heretofore attended my daughter as her sub-governess, may meet (for the reasons I have assigned to your lordship, and which I must also entreat of you to lay before the King) with his Majesty's approbation to succeed Mrs. Campbell in the situation of second sub-governess, should his Majesty deem it necessary that another sub-governess should be nominated."

No. 2.—A letter signed Alicia Campbell, resigning the post of sub-governess to Princess Charlotte of Wales.

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, May 29, Downing Street.—"As you have not work enough, I send you a memorial from the W[est] I[udian] planters. I do not much see what they wish to be enquired into, except it be the proportion between price and drawbacks, which may be stated in one paper as well as by twenty examinations.

"The system of a fixed price is entirely vicious, because the real price must depend on fluctuations of seasons and circumstances of which no calculation can be made. But we cannot abandon our duties nor give up the people of this country wholly to the monopoly of these gentlemen.

"Perhaps if you have no objections to go through the form of seeing these people at the Committee, that might be the best course; but I suspect the real object of the whole is to lay

ground for jérémiades about the slave trade." Copy.

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 29. Clifford Street.—"My friend B. Bouverie is disposed to resign his situation at the Board of Commissioners of Accounts, provided some arrangement could be made for the benefit of his family. The mode which has occurred to him he is very desirous of explaining to you in person, and you will receive a note requesting that you will name a time for seeing him. Independently of my anxiety on Bragge's account, I earnestly hope that a mode may be found of releasing Bouverie from a situation to which he thinks that his health will be unequal, and of rendering a service to his family, on whose account he was induced to accept it."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, May 30. Windsor Castle.—" The King is extremely sorry to find that Mrs. Campbell is under the necessity on account of the state of her health of resigning the situation of sub-governess to the Princess Charlotte of Wales, for which she has always appeared to his Majesty to be in every respect eminently qualified. The King has not any person in his eye whom he could wish to recommend for that situation, and therefore consents to the Prince of Wales's nomination of Miss Garth whom, from her private character, his Majesty considers a safe person to be about the Princess Charlotte."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, May 30. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit to your Majesty that, by a report made to the Treasury by the Surveyor General of Crown Lands, it appears that a proposal has been made for a renewal of the lease of the manor of Twickenham which expired last year; but on account of the vicinity of that manor to your Majesty's manor of Richmond, Lord Grenville thought it proper first to take your Majesty's pleasure as to the renewal of that lease; and to submit whether, if renewed, a clause should not be inserted, enabling your Majesty to resume it at any time on paying such sum as should be settled by arbitrators." Copy.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, May 30. Downing Street.—"What you propose about Mr. Longfield may probably be the right step to take. I conclude however that you will communicate the whole of the two lists here before the measure is actually carried into effect, which should doubtless be as soon as the bill passes.

"I will try what I can do with Isaac Corry about Lord We have settled with Lord Caledon, who goes Governor to the Cape, and gives his interest in Ireland to the wishes of Government. In the county of Tyrone it is explained that his interest goes entirely and exclusively with James Stewart. Since I wrote this Corry has been with me, and I am sorry to say I forgot to mention Lord O'Neill. He goes over to-morrow to attend to his interest at Newry, where he is threatened with a formidable contest from two very long purses, Lord Downshire and Lord Kilmorey's. He asked me about the Government interest and patronage there being continued to him, and I told him I had received no other application, that I was, as is the truth, favourably disposed to him personally, but that I could not say any thing positively till I had communicated on the subject with the Duke. he has entered into no different engagement I rather think it would be right to continue the patronage to Corry unless he should actually lose his seat. He has been steady, and has occasionally assisted Newport. He also desired me to press his request of making some arrangement by which he could get his whole 600l. recommended in the present year. If it be practicable I should be glad of it.

"Sir L[awrence] P[arsons] we must, I think, bring to some point; it will never do to have our Lords of the Treasury holding off from us in difficulties. The learned in those subjects talk very confidently of our having a good division to-night."

Postscript.—"I am still laid by the leg, and have a prospect of a still longer imprisonment. I send you a letter which I received to-day, and an answer which I leave it to you to send or not, as you may indee it safe or useful

or not, as you may judge it safe or useful.

"It seems doubtful to me whether you can do better than to secure Cashel by the second arrangement, opening that by the revenue commissionership; but of this the Lord Lieutenant and you will judge, and I will never press your putting, for the sake of any parliamentary arrangement whatever, an inefficient man at the Revenue Boards."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 31. Palace Yard.—"With the consent of Lord Abercorn, I moved last night to postpone Judge Foxe's business to Friday 6th June; there is not, however, the smallest probability of its coming forward on that day. Our consideration of the impeachment articles is in a most untoward and embarrassed state, and I never saw so great a

want of your presence and assistance. The Chancellor and Lord Ellenborough, not consulting with others, suddenly pledged themselves yesterday to opinions implying that the uniform practice of a previous vote on the charges ought to be abandonned. Those opinions are supported by reasons which, though plausible in the first statement, are (I think) demonstrably unsound; and which, if acted upon, would compel us to proceed to our verdicts without any previous free discussion of the law and facts on which we are to decide. I will not however plague you with this subject, from which you are happily relieved; but unless it can be brought back to some more practicable line of management, I shall seek some pretext quickly to withdraw from it, and to attend to other duties.

"A curious question has arisen at the Committee of Council for Trade, on the subject of our Botany Bay establishment; and I conceive that we must have immediate recourse to the Cabinet for a decision. A ship of nine hundred tons burden from Port Jackson, with oil and seal ships (skins?) is hourly expected (this is the second vessel). The people interested in our British fishery object to this, as ruinous to their whale fishery, and as producing no seamen to the navy. The India Company object to it as an infringement of their charter, and also as having tended already to the building of ships calculated to follow the China trade, and eventually leading to the most alarming consequences. The short question will be: is it the intention and policy of Government that these establishments shall be considered as colonies, with all the privileges of colonists?

"It is too late now for the Bremen whalers to proceed on their voyages, and their application is abandoned; but I submit to you and to Mr. Fox that we might release from the embargo the five or six Bremen vessels which we still retain; great orders are come and are coming for British cargoes to be sent in neutral ships to Bremen, and even that Bremen

vessels which are here would go back fully laden.

"I have a long letter from the King's Advocate on the mischievous frauds which are practising by neutral nations in the abuse of their flags; I will forward it to Mr. Fox's Office.

"I should be glad to know that you are recovering from your lameness."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, May 31. [Pall Mall.]—"I have always had it in view to take the first opportunity in my power to comply with Lord B[uckingham's] wishes in favour of Sir W. Young, though I was fearful of making a promise generally to give to Sir William the first government that should fall. To the present arrangement I shall accordingly lend myself with great pleasure, if you should think it worth while to make the

vacancy at the price you mention, rather than to wait the chance of some future opportunity, when I might be able to offer to Lord B[uckingham] an appointment for Sir William equally advantageous, without your being obliged to create the vacancy."

LORD GRENVILLE tO H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, May 31. Downing Street.—"I have this day seen Lord Dartmouth, who informs me that, in consequence of what has passed between his Majesty and him last year, he had named a person of the name of Willis, who is in the Lord Steward's office, to be Auditor and Comptroller of Accounts of the establishment of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte.

"I did not think it proper to take any final step in the business till I knew whether your Royal Highness approved of this appointment; and I have therefore taken the liberty to trouble your Royal Highness with this letter. If there should be no objection to it, I will immediately insert Mr. Willis's name in the warrant which is ready prepared for his Majesty's signature, directing the payment of the establishment according to the footing proposed last year, with the addition of 1,000l. to cover unforseen expenses. For this purpose the grant of 6,000l. to your Royal Highness for the Princess's maintenance will by this warrant be revoked, and an allowance of 13,000l. to her Royal Highness placed on the Civil List." Copy.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, May 31. Carlton House.—" Accept my best thanks for both your kind notes, that of yesterday, as well as that of this evening. I should have thanked you for the first, but I was unwilling to put you to the trouble of reading a stupid repetition of thanks, knowing how your time is taken up with more material matters. However, upon the note I have received this evening you must forgive me if I state how sensibly I feel the delicacy which prompted you to say what you did to me respecting the nomination of Mr. Willis. happen to be well acquainted with the character of this gentleman, and in the world there cannot exist a worthier nor a more respectable character; consequently a person that in every sense can be more agreeable to me, to fill the office for which he is intended. I trust however you will allow me to add that, as the arrangement of the establishment of my daughter seems to be drawing to a final issue, it will be necessary for me to intrude upon you for a few minutes to lay before you some certain circumstances which are most essential for you to be acquainted with, previous to the ultimate statement being laid before the King.

"There are also some other very material matters that I wish to lay before you at the present moment, which render

it necessary for me to request of you to name an hour, any time to-morrow between one o'clock and six should you be remaining in London, and should it not materially interfere with any other important business to which you may have dedicated these hours, when I may eall upon you in Downing Street."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, May 31. Windsor Castle.—"The King does not object to the renewal of the lease of the manor of Twickenham, and approves of the insertion of the elause which Lord Grenville has proposed."

THOMAS GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, March-June. Charles Street.—"I have seen the bishop and have told him of the duke's danger, and have discussed with him the question of his probable successor. The bishop thinks that, before the Catholic question, Christ Church might upon a vaeancy have taken the lead in your favour with great eonfidence of success; but, with the strong opinion which so lately and so unanimously prevailed upon that question in the University, he is not without apprehensions that a ery might be raised which would perhaps defeat the most active exertions that Christ Church could make, even if the dean was disposed to try to take the lead. The bishop tells me that he knows nothing confidentially of what the dean's present notions are in ease of a vaeaney; but he suspects that the dean would wish Christ Church rather to be invited by other eolleges, than to take any lead upon a new election. The bishop however frequently repeated that he did not know the dean's intentions, and I see plainly he thinks he cannot influence them. He told me that, if you was not a minister, he should recommend to you to try to sound the opinions at Oxford without meaning to persist if there should be any obstruction; but he sees that, in your situation, it would be an essential loss of eonsequence to you to bring your name at all forward without great moral certainty of success. He does not know of any eandidate, but thinks either the Duke of Beaufort or Lord Dartmouth not unlikely, if they start anybody upon the ery of the ehureh. I have left him strongly impressed with the value which you attach to the election, if it could take place; and he has promised to turn in his mind all that ean be done to assist, or at worst, to ascertain the question, and to let me know all that oeeurs to him.

"It is evident however that he eannot influence the dean, whom he supposes to wish not to be active, for he frequently said that, if that should be the dean's determination, he

has no power to shake it.

"The bishop himself is certainly anxious to find such a probability of success as would warrant the experiment, but he does not talk sanguinely yet."

LORD GRENVILLE tO H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, June 1. Downing Street.—"I am this moment honoured with your Royal Highness's eommands. I should of eourse be entirely at your Royal Highness's orders for any hour this morning that may be most eonvenient to your Royal Highness, but I wish to be allowed to submit whether it might not be better if to-morrow were fixed for that purpose instead of to-day; because this morning we are to see Sir J. and Lady Douglas, and the two other persons who have already been examined; and although there eould be no solid objection even to your Royal Highness being present, if you thought fit, at their examination, yet in a matter of such peculiar delicaey, where appearances are to be watched and misrepresentations guarded against, some story might hereafter be grounded upon it, if it were known that immediately after these examinations, and on the very same day, I had received the high honour of your Royal Highness's visit here.

"We are to have a Cabinet to-morrow morning on other business, but if I knew what hour would suit your Royal Highness, I would take eare to have the Cabinet fixed so as not to interfere with it." Copy.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 1. Carlton House.—"I entirely agree with you that, for the reasons assigned in your letter, it will be better for our interview to be deferred till to-morrow. Independent of what I have to mention respecting Charlotte's establishment, I am very desirous of seeing you previous to its being determined to examine any other witnesses, than those that are to be examined this day, as there are several considerations which I wish to lay before you; and many points which, I am eonfident, no one ean give you such material information upon as I can myself. Our interview therefore, if you please, shall stand over till to-morrow at any hour that you will please to name."

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.

1806, June 1. Downing Street.—"I much wished to have seen you in the eourse of yesterday or this day, but I am under an engagement that will oeeupy me, I fear, the whole of this morning, and that it will not be possible for me to put off; and I learn that you dine out of town. The subject on which I wished to converse with you is that of the further steps to be taken on the business of the slave trade which, I am confident you agree with me, ought—whatever is to be

done upon it—to be considered as a matter involving the interest and character of the country; and on which its Government is therefore bound to deliberate, and, if possible, to form an united and well considered system of conduct.

"If I understand your sentiments on this subject rightly, and I think I do, you agree with me in the strong disapprobation of the nature of this trade, in the earnest desire to see it put an end to; but you think the steps for that purpose should, on political considerations of the colonial and commercial interests of the country, be more gradual than I can bring myself to think they ought to be. You voted, I believe, not only for gradual abolition—as it is now termed—in general, but specifically for abolition, in the shape in which that proposition was carried in the House of Commons; that is

abolition at a period long since elapsed.

"Would it not therefore be easy to shape a proposition in which we should all concur, all except the very few in either Houses of Parliament who now defend the slave trade on account of its own intrinsic merits. Suppose the House of Commons were to send us up a resolution that it is desirable to put an end to this practice by such steps, and in such time and manner as shall be provided by the wisdom of Parliament, on a due consideration of all the circumstances connected with that important question. I do not give you these words as correct, but merely as conveying the substance of the idea. Is not that a proposition which would carry with it the assent of all the opinions we should wish to conciliate? of every public man indeed, with the very few exceptions I

have already pointed at.

"After such a resolution passed in the House of Lords, we might then employ part of the interval before the next session in shaping by mutual accommodation such a measure as would certainly fall short of my sanguine and impatient wishes to do this great good at the first possible moment; but as would, nevertheless, meet with my cheerful support, as being the best thing that may be practicable. We could, at the very opening of the next session, resume the subject so as to put it out of the power of our opponents again to defeat us by the disgraceful methods of delay which have so much hurt the character of the House of Lords; and we might look with sanguine hopes to the setting at rest a question, in the rejection of which persons feeling as Fox and I do never can acquiesce; and which it is nevertheless certainly desirable not to have perpetually agitated, either with a view to the harmony of this country or of the colonies.

"It would be premature here to enter into the different plans that have suggested themselves to my mind for a measure of this subject. That which I have always thought the best mode of gradual abolition I still continue to look at with partiality. It is the imposing on slave ships cleared out from British ports a capitation tax proportioned to the number

of slaves they carry; and gradually increasing this tax every year, say 10l. the first year, 20l. the second, and so on, till the increase of duty will at length operate as a total prohibition. The produce of this tax, which would, according to the calculations we have lately heard, amount to about 150l. on the first year, and probably more the second, but after that would diminish rapidly, I would employ for the benefit of the planters, either in diminution of the duties here on their produce; or, perhaps better, in bounties on the number of black children reared on the different plantations; or, lastly, which I should like the best of all, in buying out a

day in each week for the slaves now in the islands.

"The merits of this plan, if it has any, is that the abolition will thus not only be gradual—more so than I wish—but graduated by a scale arising out of the nature of the thing itself to which it is applied. When an estate is not in great want of farther supplies of negroes, the increased price will deter the proprietor from making the purchase. When the want is considerable, the benefit received will counterbalance the additional expense. Those who fear the sudden effects of sudden abolition will see in this mode sufficient provision both of due notice, and of time given to meet the emergency. And the very measure which we have just passed will facilitate the adoption of this plan, by rendering the supply of negroes on the coast for our old colonies much more abundant than it would otherwise have been; and making therefore a provision, without increased misery in Africa, for some increased importation of slaves into those colonies during the next two years, in order to meet whatever inconvenience may be apprehended from the subsequent diminution of the trade.

"A separate consideration is that of Trinidad which requires no Parliamentary measure; and with respect to which, therefore, the whole responsibility of the slave trade rests on the Cabinet; a dreadful responsibility to those who feel upon it as I do, and believe that the responsibility of public men in public stations is not confined to impeachments in this world. I have desired Fox to summon a Cabinet for to-morrow on these subjects, but I know not what hour he will wish to name; all are indifferent to me. Whatever we resolve on the subject, the consideration of it must be speedy; for days and weeks are passing over us rapidly, and it will soon be too late in this session for any discussion whatever on such a

subject." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, June 2. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit for your Majesty's royal signature the warrant for paying the establishment of her Royal Highness the Princess Charlotte on the footing settled by your Majesty, with the addition of 1,000l. per annum which Lord Grenville has taken the liberty to add as a provision for unforseen

charges. If your Majesty should, on consideration, deem it proper to make any further addition, it may of course be done at any time that your Majesty shall be graciously pleased so to order it; but it appeared very desirable that no time should be lost in carrying into effect the orders with which your

Majesty was pleased to charge Lord Grenville.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has commanded Lord Grenville humbly to submit to your Majesty a letter which his Royal Highness has received from Miss Garth declining the situation which your Majesty had been graciously pleased to empower his Royal Highness to offer The Prince is still anxious that she may accept the appointment for which she had been destined by the favourable opinion both of your Majesty and the Prince, and his Royal Highness thinks that if your Majesty were graciously pleased to intimate a wish to that effect through General Garth, that might probably induce her to accept it. Should that not be the case, and should your Majesty not have any other person immediately in view for the situation, his Royal Highness would humbly solicit that the decision might be postponed until he shall be enabled to submit to your Majesty his further wishes on a subject so interesting to him.

"Lord Grenville is under the necessity of intreating your Majesty's gracious permission to keep his house this week, as he is told by his surgeon that his doing so is absolutely necessary to his being able to attend his duty in Parliament

next week." Copy.

LORD HENRY PETTY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 2.—"I enclose an application from the Duke of Kent; but I have told his Royal Highness that I understood the vacant situations were filled up."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, June 2. [Pall Mall.]—"I have just heard that Bond for some reason is about to resign his situation as Judge-Advocate. I am sure, in this case, you will recollect what I mentioned formerly of Laurence's wishes, and will feel with me that his claims have been considerably strengthened, and the merits of his character been rendered more conspicuous even by what has passed since the period that I allude to.

"I will not say a word, as from myself, where I am sure your opinions will go so much with mine, should the fact be as I have heard, and should Bond not have resigned on grounds that would equally indispose Laurence to accept."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, June 3. Queen's Palace.—"The King has signed the warrant for paying the establishment of the Princess Charlotte of Wales, and entirely approves of the addition

made to it by Lord Grenville of one thousand pounds per annum for unforscen charges, and of the provision left for such further additions as may be necessary. His Majesty will not fail to speak to General Garth, and hopes he may succeed in prevailing upon Miss Garth to accept the situation of sub-governess, but if she should still persist in declining it, the King will wait for such further proposal as may be made to him by the Prince of Wales for filling that situation.

"His Majesty regrets very sincerely that Lord Grenville still suffers so much inconvenience from his accident, and fears that he did not do himself any good by coming out last week."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HENRY PETTY.

1806, June 3. Downing Street.—"I return the Duke of Kent's letter to which you have already given the only possible answer. His Royal Highness is a very general patron, and a most persevering solicitor." Copy.

LORD HENRY PETTY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 3.—" I enclose Sir J. Sinclair's notes respecting his report, which he desired might be communicated to you." *Enclosure*:—

Memorandum as to the balances of the Scotch forfeited estates.

"The distribution of these balances proposed by the Committee will do more good than ever was effected by such a sum.

"It will establish the deep sea herring fishery, and promote in various other respects, the commercial and agricultural interests of Scotland.

"It gratifies the most important public bodies in Scotland—

1. The British Fishery Society, in which there are many English gentlemen, as Wm. Smith, Wilbeforce.

2. The Highland Society, and

3. The Magistrates and Town Council of Edinburgh. "The proposed distribution is also highly important to many of the principal families in Scotland as—

1. The Duke of Gordon.

2. The Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford.

3. Lord Eglinton.

4. Lord Breadalbane.

5. Lord Salton.

6. Miss Drummond of Perth.

7. Sir James Colquhoun of Luff, Mr. Brodie of Brodie, Sir James Montgomery, Sir John Sinclair, and a number of others.

"In short, had not the Committee taken great pains and acted on the fairest public principles it could not have been effected.

"The only person hostile to the plan is the Duchess of Gordon, because the Committee could not recommend giving the public money to a private society instituted by the Duchess, called the Badenoch and Strathspey

Society.

"If it is necessary, the Lord Advocate and Sir John Sinclair the chairman will wait on Lord Grenville or Lord Henry Petty on Wednesday or Thursday morning to explain any further particulars, but they are very anxious to have the report made Tuesday morning."

Nota Bene.—"The plan is completely approven of by the opposition, Mr. Wm. Dundas, Mr. Robert Dundas and Mr. George Rose having attended the committee,

or seen a sketch of the report."

LORD GRENVILLE to C. J. Fox.

1806, June 3. Downing Street.—"Immediately after you left me I received the enclosed letter from Wickham, with the

note respecting Fauche-Borel.

"As to the question respecting Austria, I think, if you agree in it, the right thing will be, first to say that we do not insist on the claim of vacating the whole treaty on the ground stated by Wickham; but, secondly, that if Starhemberg will take 500,000l. paid immediately in one sum as a satisfaction for all demands, he may agree with Starhemberg to that effect. As to Fauche, I think you will agree with me that he is entitled to a provision from this government, though possibly you will not think better than I do of the wisdom of sending him back to Paris under the circumstances that Wickham states.

"If such a provision is right, it can only be given as an annual allowance out of the secret service fund of the Foreign Office; and you will therefore of course determine what you think right about it. I confess I think it should not be less than 600l. per annum, and perhaps an immediate advance of something more than the first year's payment." Copy.

THE SAME to W. WINDHAM.

1806, June 3. [Downing Street.]—"I have just received your note. I am anxious, if I can, to prevent Bond's resignation, and wished (if one could find time for all these things) to have spoken to you on the subject. It arises from a new regulation that the Duke of York and Fitz Patrick have settled between them for preventing the Judge-Advocate from having the access to the King, as had been usual. I own I think the thing might as well have been left on its former footing, or, at least, not changed without previous communication.

"If we should fail in adjusting this business, there is certainly no one whose wishes I should be [so] glad to consult as Laurence's, both on your account and on his. But I shall

be much embarrassed what to do with Bond." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, June 4. [Downing Street.]—"I hope you have said nothing to Dr. Laurence on the subject of the Judge-Advocate. The account which I have just read of what passed yesterday in the House has staggered me very much. I have no sort of claim to influence the conduct or opinions of Dr. Laurence; but, on the other hand, I must pause before I can decide to recommend for a high judicial situation a person who means, I am confident, to do justice, but whose ideas of justice lead him to take so very forward and strong a part in countenancing what I consider a very unjust proceeding against a most meritorious public servant.

"I am not so unreasonable as to expect that all the persons with whom I am acting politically should agree with me in sentiment on all past measures. On the contrary, the present Government was, as you well know, formed on the principle of agreeing, if we could, prospectively, to administer the affairs of the country without retrospect to former differences; and there are certainly very few of those with whom I have the satisfaction of being now joined, between whom and myself there could be less difficulty in such co-operation than with Laurence, because I hardly know any other subject of difference between us but this.

"But then if this is pushed forward unnecessarily into so prominent a point of view, it becomes me to consider what is due to my own character, feelings, and honour, and to ask myself (I do not yet decide) whether it be consistent with any of these, or with the opinions which I profess, and most sincerely hold, respecting the singular and almost unparalleled merits of Lord Wellesley's administration in India, to take the very moment of this unjust persecution of him, to recommend for a high judicial station one of those who,

before trial, takes so strong a part against him.

"All I mean to say in this moment is to beg that I may not be considered as committed by any thing that has passed. Possibly the question may not arise. If it does, we must talk it over again, and, certainly, all I shall say or do on the subject will be no other that what I at least deem due to my own honour, and consistent with the sincere regard which I feel for Laurence's character, and the regret with which I look at any circumstance of difference with him, even on one (though certainly not an unimportant) point." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, June 4. Dublin Castle.—"The only point I have ventured to settle with regard to the intended commissions of revenue is that Lord Castle Coote is to preside at the Board of Customs, and that Lord Annesley is to be chairman of the Excise Board. This arrangement I was anxious to fix, because I understood from Sir John Newport it would be agreeable to

the wishes of you both. Of course no further steps will be taken without previous communication with you. Pennefather, from all I can learn of him, would not be likely to prove very

efficient. However, I will enquire more about him.

"Mr. Carleton (brother to Lord Ashton) the present Collector of Newry, being by length of service entitled to a retirement on the incidents of the revenue, the Lord Lieutenant proposes giving his office to Mr. Matthews, who has had for some time past the management of the Downshire property, and about whom Lady Downshire is much interested. Attention must be shown Lady Downshire, and this is the only instance in which the Duke has at present any prospect of being able to oblige her. In respect to all other patronage at Newry the Duke is quite disengaged, but I doubt whether it may be politick to support Corry, either against Lady Downshire, or the Needham Family, as I apprehend he will not have the smallest chance of success against such opponents. The Lord Lieutenant's pension list is already so deeply pledged that it will be impossible for him to give Corry his whole pension this year. The Duke has, I believe, explained to Lord Spencer the claims on this year's list.

Lord Spencer the claims on this year's list.

"As you mention that Lord Caledon's interest in the county of Tyrone is promised exclusively to Stewart, I presume you do not intend to give Knox the support of Government. I believe I apprised you in a former letter that Knox is in

London, if you should be disposed to treat with him.

"None of the Beresfords appear to have been in the last division. John Claudius is in London, and I wish much you could see him after you have ascertained the views of Lord Ponsonby. In case the city of Waterford should make part of your negotiation with the Beresfords, you will probably come to some understanding with Sir John Newport in respect to the patronage there, as he at present naturally looks to the whole.

"I am sorry to hear you have the prospect of so long a

confinement, but I hope you do not suffer much pain.

"I forget to advert to Sir Lawrence Parsons. He is to be in Dublin in the course of this week, and I shall come to some explanation with him in respect to his parliamentary attendance. Your division was far better than I expected."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, June 4. [Pall Mall.]—"I have said nothing to Laurence by which you will be committed, or the difficulty, which you described, increased. But the difficulty itself is such, according to your present view of it, as makes me pray most anxiously that the case may never happen.

"Consider how we shall severally stand if our friends are expected to agree on points on which there is so much reason to fear that we may not be able to agree ourselves; if anyone is to give up the just pretensions and claims upon him of another, because, upon a subject necessarily left open for difference of opinion even among the members of the Cabinet, he finds his friend, in the exercise of that same right, adopting an opinion the same possibly with his own. It is impossible that, upon a great question of Indian policy more possibly than upon any other, Laurence can compromise his opinion. There is not a reason for supposing that his opinion will be guided by anything but his most sincere conviction; and how will any one stand of those more immediately connected with him, if, in consequence of his opinion so formed, and for the exercise of a privilege which they confessedly must reserve for themselves, they should see him put aside from an object to which his pretensions would otherwise be admitted. Such a reason on their part could never be avowed, and can as little, I fear, be acted upon. But were it possible that it should prevail, I should still, for my own part, feel myself under the most serious difficulties at seeing Laurence, for a second time, put aside in favour of another claimant, from an object for which he is so peculiarly marked out, and which, from his situation, is the only one probably that can be devised for him. I enter perfectly into your feelings about Lord Wellesley, though it does not appear to me, and I hope will not finally to you, that the course of proceeding which those feelings might naturally dictate, is the course also of reason and duty. One of the reasons for thinking it not to be so, is its opposition to what seems clearly to be prescribed by duty on the other side. With every possible disposition to accommodation, particularly in the present case, I do not conceive how it is possible for me to see Laurence again set aside with no better grounds, either of reality or appearance, than the present circumstances will afford. I do most anxiously hope, therefore, that either Bond will stay, or that Laurence, with whom I have had but little conversation. may for some reason not think the situation desirable. knew before I had seen him of the probable vacancy.

"The accounts received to day from the West Indies make it necessary to consider anew the question which we had before decided, about the sending the 54th regiment to the West Indies. It will likewise be necessary that we should settle, as soon as may be, the points still left in doubt in our remaining Bills, in order that they may, if possible, be presented either to-morrow or Saturday; on which last day it will be desirable that the House should sit, in order that the Mutiny Bill may go up that day to the Lords. Will it suit you, therefore, to summon a Cabinet either at two or three o'clock?"

The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 5. Phœnix Park.—"I have delayed communicating with your lordship on the subject of your letter (marked private) of the 6th ultimo in the almost constant expectation of seeing the Primate who, I understood, was likely to be in Dublin on his way to England; but, finding myself disappointed in this hope, I requested Dean Warburton, who last week visited his living in the neighbourhood of Armagh, to take an opportunity of waiting on the Primate, with a view of stating to his grace fully my sentiments on the subject of a regal visitation, and other matters connected with the interests of the church establishment of Ireland referred to in your lordship's letter, and in which I have the satisfaction entirely to concur in opinion with your lordship.

"In consequence of the dean's visit, the Primate, who was about to leave Armagh for England by way of Donaghadee, determined on taking his passage from Dublin in preference, and I have this morning had a long conversation with him on various matters relating to the church, and to the actual state of Protestant education in Ireland. The Primate embarks this evening, and has assured me that he will endeavour to see your lordship during his short stay in London (which is limited to a very few days) and concert with you such measures as may be deemed advisable to forward the important object we have in view. His grace is of opinion that the application from the Lord Lieutenant to the archbishops should be backed by the powerful influence of the King's sanction and authority; and it will be extremely satisfactory to me if the Primate and your lordship would take into consideration the form and substance of the letter to be addressed to the archbishops, not only as affording me a just confidence in the propriety and efficacy of the conduct I am pursuing, but as securing to me a reasonable pledge of the assistance and co-operation of the Primate himself, so essential to the success of the measure.

"The instructions I received previous to my leaving England, together with the thorough understanding that was had on the subject in the several communications at Spencer House, are perhaps every thing which may be necessary to our purpose; but I think some official instructions intimating his Majesty's pleasure upon this immediate subject, may give an additional

weight to our proceedings.

"I have only to add that I earnestly hope that whatever Parliamentary measures it may be thought expedient to adopt in the next session (unconnected with money grants) will originate with your lordship in the House of Lords, not only because it is the House of Parliament in which the episcopal bench exercises its legislative functions, but because your lordship's name, and character, and station, will give that confidence and security to the minds of the bishops and other friends of the established church, without which we shall in vain look for any solid and effectual reform of the abuses which have from time to time crept into the establishment."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, June 5. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour of humbly submitting for your Majesty's Royal signature, if approved, three warrants; two for the pensions of 600*l*. each for Lady Lucy Taylor and Lady Griselda Jekell, in lieu of their contingent pension of 1,200*l*. each, on which Lord Grenville has already had the honour of receiving your Majesty's commands; and one for an increased allowance to the First Lord of the Admiralty, in order to bring the salary of that officer to 5,000*l*. per annum net, which Lord Grenville hopes your Majesty will not deem more than justly adequate to the dignity, responsibility, and labour of that high office.

"If Lord Grenville had been able to have had the honour of paying his duty to your Majesty to-day, it was his intention to have humbly submitted whether your Majesty would have approved of this arrangement; but, as it has been so long depending, he trusts your Majesty will excuse his taking the liberty of laying it before your Majesty in this mode." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 5. Palace Yard.—"Messrs. Gordon, Reid, and Murphy have had a long conference with me respecting their project of bringing ten millions of dollars from South America in vessels to be sent with Spanish and British licenses from Cadiz. I have convinced them that the vessels must not be Spanish but neutral; that the cargo must not be Spanish but neutral or British; and that a proportion of the cargo must be British manufactures with an exclusion of all articles except what are called innocent articles; and they are to have the licenses accordingly so framed. I mention this, that you may have the goodness to support me in it, if they attempt again to have licenses without those restrictions.

"Judge Foxe has presented a petition through Lord Moira, stating in terms well expressed, the hardships of his prosecution. If (as I conceive) it should be impracticable to pursue the business so as to receive his justification, his expenses at least ought to be paid; and I have some reason to believe that Lord Abercorn, if we manage, as I wish to do, the postponement with due delicacy towards him, is disposed to such a conclusion, which seems to be better than a pension to a person

under accusation.

"Wyatt's plan for the *facade* of the House of Lords is on my table to be shewn to you; it looks well on paper, and the expence will be very inconsiderable. Whenever you can spare five minutes I will shew it or send it."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, June 5. Downing Street.—"The restrictions you mention on the licenses are certainly right, but we have determined to confine them to two millions, instead of ten,

agreeably to a power to that effect reserved by the late Treasury, by whom this bargain, not an advantageous one, was made. We have since an offer of dollars on much better terms, and may look, I trust, to save not much less than 500,000l. on these transactions alone. In the meantime an immense question is opening by this attempt (successful hitherto) of Miranda's on the Caraccas. The thing was launched by our predecessors, as a matter of connivance only, without any plan for acting in consequence of it. How far shall we now countenance it, or engage in it?

"I have desired Lord Spencer to postpone the consideration of Fox's business to some further day when the press of the trial attendance may be over, and I myself able

to attend.

"We must keep Tuesday for the second reading, and Thursday for the committee on the Meeting Bill. Naturally the opposition will be in the latter stage. I am promised leave to go out on Tuesday.

"Lord Howick, who is not well used to committee business in the H[ouse] of C[ommons] has, I understand, got into difficulties about the plan for the Hunter museum.

"Any morning that you could call here about half past ten, I should be glad to see Wyatt's plan, except Saturday."

THE SAME to W. WINDHAM.

Downing Street.—"We will talk on the 1806, June 5. subject of Laurence when we meet, and can find a moment for the purpose. I am sure it is not necessary for me to assure you of my sincere desire to smooth all difficulties as they arise, so long as I can do so without compromising my own honour; but, if your regard for Laurence leads you to feel sensibly any obstacle in the way of what I freely admit might otherwise be his reasonable pretensions, you have much too liberal a mind not to enter, on the other hand, into my feelings, at seeing my oldest and most intimate friend exposed to the most unjust persecution, after a series of such services as no other man now living has been happy enough to render to his country; and at finding this persecution countenanced and encouraged by the persons with whom I am joined in political connection, and in whose favour I am at that very moment desired to exert myself. My objection to Laurence's conduct, in this instance, does not rest on such difference of ultimate judgment as he might feel himself compelled to declare in a case of this nature, after it had been heard and fairly examined, and when it was brought to judgment, as far as that term can be applied to a decision of a body so little judicial in its character and course of proceeding as the House of Commons. What I object to, and think I have great reason to complain of, is the studious manifestation of a hostile predisposition against so near a connection of mine, whose case cannot be known to Laurence, because it never has been before him or before the public. And you may yourself judge how strong that predisposition must be when it could induce a man, naturally of an upright mind, and that mind enlightened by legal studies and acquirements, to oppose the endeavours of Lord Wellesley's friends to obtain a decision of his case this session; and to justify the studious and deliberate procrastination of his accuser. See what Paul's conduct is, and what Laurence is able to bring himself to vindicate; and then judge whether I think as you do, that there is no reason to fear that his subsequent conduct will be unduly biassed. With all his materials fully before him, with the Directors and Proprietors contending who shall be foremost in furnishing him with every document and paper he can want, with a House of Commons (most strangely, as I think) delegating to him without reserve their whole inquisitorial power, he chooses to defer bringing his charges forward till a period of the session at which he may hope they cannot be examined; and, when he is called upon by the friends of the defendant to make good his accusation, he procrastinates it from time to time, with no other motive that any man can assign but that of loading a man of unimpeached integrity, of the highest honour, and of the most distinguished public services, with the foulest imputations; laying [them] before the public for months, perhaps for years, before they are to be enquired into.

"Can I think, can you yourself think, that the apologist of this proceeding is likely to bring to the discussion itself whenever it is forced on, as I trust it will be in spite of the accuser, an impartial, an unbiassed mind? I cannot. And then the question must be whether honour and justice will allow me to give, at this very moment, a fresh weight and authority to opinions of such a description, and even to appear myself implicated in them. The limits of mutual forbearance and accommodation in the case of differences of opinion between friends are always difficult to be exactly defined; but there are cases where the transgression of those limits is obvious to every eye; and, surely, you cannot yourself hesitate to acknowledge that this case is of that description.

"I got your note too late to fix a Cabinet for to-day. I wish therefore you would send notes for it at 12 to-morrow.

"One of the points you mention, that of the question between proceeding on old or new militia lists, is saved for the future decision of Government by one of the alterations I had proposed in the Training Bill; which gives the King power to proceed this year either on the new or old lists as he shall think fit." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 6. Queen's Palace.—"The King has signed the warrants submitted to him by Lord Grenville for the

pensions to Lady Lucy Taylor and Lady Griselda Jekell, and for the increased allowance to the First Lord of the

Admiralty.

"His Majesty has seen General Garth, who has acquainted him, that, with every assurance of duty and respect, Miss Garth persists in declining the situation offered to her, for which she states that neither her spirits or her health, nor, in her own opinion, her abilities are competent." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, June 6. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville presents his humble duty to the Prince of Wales, and has the honour to acquaint his Royal Highness that he has just received a note from his Majesty mentioning that his Majesty has seen General Garth, who has acquainted his Majesty that, with every assurance of duty and respect, Miss Garth persists in declining the situation offered to her, for which, she states, that neither her spirits or health nor, in her own opinion, her abilities are competent." Copy.

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 6. Palace Yard.—"I have appointed Mr. Wyatt to meet me in Downing Street at half-past ten on Tuesday, and I hope that you will be able to receive us for a few minutes.

"I had a long conference yesterday with the West India deputation; on Monday I am to settle with the Inspector General and the East India Directors as to various accounts of duties, drawback, bounties, net produce, quantities imported and exported, East India sugars to different parts of the world; and the deputation will come again on Friday, when we shall have facts sufficient to ground a report.

"I presume you did not mean that We (I mean the Council) were to hear the two Assurance companies. It would lead to delays tantemount to a negation in this session; and they can be heard, if they claim it, at the H[ouse] of Commons.

"Lord Howick's two Bills as to the Greenwich and Chatham establishments will be most creditable to him, and

to your Government.

George III, c. 160, which gives the prize money to the officers and seamen serving during the war. It is desirable that you should look at this. I do not think that the objection will occur to others, or that it can be material, particularly as this new regulation is solely for the benefit of officers and seamen, and also as it will be necessary to have a prize Act for Prussian prizes. At all events Lord Howick's measure (I submit) may go forwards even if we restrict it to prizes in future wars, which I hope not to be obliged to do."

Confidential. "Every observation and Parliamentary event confirms me strongly in an observation which I risked to you sometime ago on the great expediency of 'a change of cards."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 9.—"I have heard repeated to-night with so much confidence what I had before but little attended to, of a supposed nomination of Alexander to the Secretaryship of the Cape, that I cannot but feel some alarm upon the subject, though I know not how any thing can have happened by which my alarm can be justified. There is indeed another matter which may seem to countenance these apprehensions, but which, I am willing to hope, is not so, namely, that you had settled the point, on which we had some correspondence, of the agency of the Cape by giving away the appointment.

"I will call upon [you] both about the one and the other,

in the course of the morning."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, June 10. Palace Yard.—"I have written to the Speaker and to Mr. Groves respecting your proportion of the gallery; and Mr. Burrell will be with me to-morrow morning, when I shall accompany him to the Hall and resign the further details to him. I mention this, because if you should have an audience to-day, and can recollect so small a matter, I would beg the favour of you to submit to the King the dutiful hope which Lord Gwydir and I have; that his Majesty will approve of Mr. Burrell as Deputy Great Chamberlain under the special circumstance of Lord Gwydir's precarious state of health. I had already made some mention of this to his Majesty through Colonel Taylor some months ago. is really out of my power to undertake that task further than I have done. I hope I have succeeded in expediting the preparation of the Hall, I believe beyond example; and it should also be mentioned to his Majesty that particular attention has been given respecting the boxes which are called the King's boxes, and also respecting the box which Majesty has in the Speaker's gallery.

"Messicurs Wcdgwood and Byerly represent to the Council that since the supposed closure of the Prussian ports, they have received from Hamburg a very large order to be immediately supplied. I presume that they must be considered for the present as precluded by the blockade.

"When the present hurry is a little cleared, I will make a statement of the money gained by the sale of Church lands. I can speak to it with tolerable accuracy from recollection; for yesterday I signed some conveyances, in which the purchase money compleated the sum of 996,400l. sterling, received for such sales. And there are some further considerable

sales coming forwards. As therefore the gain to the public is 11th, and as there has been a considerable accumulation of interest, the whole may be stated at about 100,000l. sterling, and would, as I have before remarked, clear the land tax affecting 1,000 or 1,500 of the small livings. measure should be thought right (and certainly it sounds well) I conceive that the commissioners should be authorized to carry it into effect within the several dioceses, in the proportions received within those dioceses; for the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Salisbury, and some of the great colleges have not yet made any sales; and it is not just that livings in their patronage should have the benefit to which they have not yet contributed. Besides that distinction would promote further sales, and tend to compleat the clearance of the land tax."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, June 10. Dropmore.—"I never said one word either to Lord Caledon or to Alexander about the latter going Secretary to the Cape; but, having heard the same report that you have, that he considered the thing as settled, I vesterday desired King to see him, and to tell him that, if he

wished for this object, he must apply to you for it.
"With respect to the agency, I must say in the first place that I have not, nor ever had, one moment's doubt in my own mind upon the question of right; all colonial agencies having always been considered as in the disposal of the Treasury, as I well know by my own experience when I held the Home Office; and the practice of an appointment by the Governor, in one or two late instances, having been adopted solely, as I believe, for the purpose of evading the law, and enabling the holders of those offices to sit in the House of Commons.

"But, independently of this, I really had understood from the terms of the letter you wrote to me on this subject, that, without entering into any question of right, you meant to leave me at full liberty to make such disposition of this office as might meet the object I had in view. If I was mistaken in this, the fault is mine; because, though I certainly could not have relinquished the right, thinking it so perfectly clear as I do, yet I certainly would not have taken it upon myself to decide the matter without further communication with vou." Copy.

THE SAME to C. J. Fox.

1806, June 11. Downing Street.—"There has been some difficulty in adjusting the days for the various points of business we have to bring forward in the House of Lords next week; we at last fixed them as follows, namely:

Tuesday—Third reading of the Mutiny Bill, which is

to be opposed.

Wednesday—Scotch Courts. Thursday—Judge Fox. Friday—Slave Trade.

"The Lords expect to go through with giving their verdicts to-morrow, and we were therefore obliged to put off the

Committee on the Mutiny Bill till Friday next."

Postscript.—"I have just received your note and shall be very glad to see you and Lord Yarmouth at one, if that time suits you. I can come over to your Office if it is more convenient to you, and perhaps indeed it will be better to do so as we may be less interrupted." Copy.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 11. Oxford Street.—"I could not find any opportunity on Monday of stating to you the great severity and injustice of my situation, nor of submitting to you any propositions for bringing the proceedings in the House of Commons to an issue. The affair has been suffered by Mr. Fox to proceed to such an extremity as absolutely to require some immediate determination; and I wish very much to be able to find you at leisure for the consideration of the question in its present state. It is most painful and grievous to me to trouble you in any degree, but, by the most incredible misfortune, I am brought to the hazard of every thing that renders life valuable; and my sufferings are not to be described. I must therefore hope that an early opportunity may occur of discussing the whole subject with you fully

and deliberately.

"I could not state to you my feelings on another point, which you mentioned to me on Monday. You apprized me of several questions likely to occur in the House of Lords (one this day) on which you wished me to attend. My anxious desire is to support you in every way steadfastly and openly. But in my present situation, standing accused of every crime which man can commit, and that accusation having been admitted on the table of the House of Commons without a word of defence from those who lead that House, I really think that it would be indelicate in me to take any part in the House of Lords. Until my situation shall be changed in this respect, I cannot feel myself to be free, in any sense of the word; and I apprehend that any vote which I might give, in such circumstances, might be imputed to motives equally dishonourable to me and to Government. I refer this point, however, to your judgment, which I shall be happy to receive whenever you can allow me an hour for the consideration of my unhappy situation."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, June 12. [Pall Mall.]—"I sent over this morning to know if you were at home, with a view of stating to you,

what I apprehend you are apprized of, that Wilberforce has been pressing most earnestly for the introduction of a clause in the Training Bill expressly to exclude Sunday, except in case where it should be specially appointed. It was on this account, and from a compliance with his wishes, for which I rather blamed myself at the time, that the Bill was not presented on Tuesday; and yesterday we were counted out.

"After much discussion, we have compromised upon grounds which, I think, you will not disapprove; that the clause should go no further than to direct that Sunday should not be appointed as a day of exercise, except by special direction from the Crown. It was at first proposed that the condition should be annexed of urgent danger or particular emergency; but that was afterwards given up. The subject was revived upon the discovery of a clause prohibiting exercise on a Sunday in some early Militia Bill. The alternative was complying with the application, or having an opposition; and the clause, as it now stands, is perhaps but little objectionable. If I hear nothing from you to the contrary, I shall let the clause be inserted before the Bill is presented."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, June 12. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville begs leave humbly to mention to your Majesty that he omitted yesterday to submit to your Majesty's pleasure (as he had intended doing) whether your Majesty would be graciously pleased to determine the abeyance of the Barony of Roos in favour of Lady Henry Fitzgerald, which, if your Majesty had no objection to it, Lord Grenville would venture humbly to recommend." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 13. Windsor Castle.—"Lady Henry Fitzgerald having been at so much expence and trouble in regard to the Barony of Roos, and having brought forward the case so clearly, the King considers it very fair to grant the abeyance in her favour, as recommended by Lord Grenville."

Private. Lord Grenville to W. Elliot.

1806, June 13. Downing Street.—"I have given to Knox, through King, an assurance of our good wishes in the county of Tyrone, but from what Alexander explained to King it appears that Lord Caledon is extremely pledged to James Stewart. If he and Knox join I suppose there can be no doubt of success. I ought to mention to you in confidence that I begin to be more doubtful whether it may not be necessary to dissolve in the course of the ensuing recess, but nothing is at all settled on this point as yet."

Postscript.—"I enclose a further statement from Lord Henry Petty of the notes he took at Maynooth. The object is in my mind so very important that I much wish something could soon be done upon it." Copy.

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 13.—"I called in Downing Street yesterday morning to tell you that there was an anxiety on the part of Lord Melville's friends to proceed to judgement without the loss of a day, and they expressed a wish that the com[mittee] on the Mutiny Bill might be deferred to Friday, in order to the House going into Westminster Hall on Thursday. The subject was left loose on Monday night, but, not finding you yesterday, on consultation with Lord Spencer, we thought it would be better not to dispute the day, on an occasion when the enemy were sure to be strong, and ourselves weak, and when it was very possible that we might be beat. Thursday is therefore appointed for the judgement, and, of course, the com[mittee] on the Mutiny Bill cannot be brought on sooner

than Friday.

"In hopes that Mr. Bond's resignation may not take place, I have waived the opportunity of mentioning Dr. Laurence's name as a person I should most earnestly recommend to your consideration as his successor. His character, talents and professional rank I need not dwell upon; they are known to everyone; but it may not be known, that this above all others is the situation he would most covet; it will not be in the way of his profession as long as he may choose to pursue it: whenever he may think proper to withdraw, this situation would afford him not only a comfortable provision, but also an honourable retreat. Under these circumstances, and from the fear lest some other appointment should suddenly take place, in case Mr. Bond should not be persuaded to remain, I have thought it better not to leave the subject to be mentioned at some occasional interview, but to convey to you in this manner the deep interest I must feel in forwarding the wishes of so worthy a man, and one so dear to me, not only from long personal connexion, but also on account of the esteem and regard in which he was held by our common friend, poor Burke.

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, June 13. Downing Street.—"I think the clause you mention is quite unobjectionable; and I am heartily glad you have so well settled a question which might otherwise have given us some trouble, particularly if the bishops had taken it up in the House of Lords." *Copy*.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 13. Camelford House.—"I was interrupted yesterday before I could complete my statement of the condition of my case in the House of Commons.

"Bankes has given intimation of an intention to remove all the charges from the House of Commons to the Court of India Judicature, under the Act for trial of offences committed in India. This would be a most injurious proceeding, before the House had resolved whether the charges contained criminal matter against me; and even if the House of Commons should resolve to bring me to trial, the House of Lords is certainly the fittest tribunal for such a cause.

"I am apprehensive that Mr. Fox may avail himself of Bankes's caprice to throw the whole subject out of Parliament,

and this step might greatly embarrass the question.

"Every consideration renders it absolutely necessary to ascertain Mr. Fox's sentiments; and I am most anxious that you should endeavour to do so in the course of to-morrow. It is desirable to know: 1. Whether he will admit evidence; 2. Whether he will negative the charge; 3. Whether he will declare my conduct to have been founded on a sense of public duty. It is also desirable to know whether, under any circumstances, he will encourage the removal of the cause to the India Judicature.

"I am the more anxious to ascertain Mr. Fox's intentions as Mr. Cravey (Secretary to the Board of Control) has informed my brothers very candidly that he is against us

upon the case, and, to use his own phrase, an enemy.

"I should be very glad to see you again on these points soon; it would be most desirable, if possible, to negative the charge on Wednesday; and if Mr. Fox would go so far as that, it may be a question whether we should proceed further."

C. J. Fox to The Same.

1806, June 14.—"Nothing appears to me more reasonable than what you have set down concerning Sicily, but I will take the note to St. Anne's Hill, and think whether I have anything to add, or to be observed upon.

"I congratulate you on the House of Lords of last night."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, June 14. Palace Yard.—"After much consultation with Sir John Nicholl on the Papenburg claim, we passed

the inclosed minute. The purport of it is :-

1. "That vessels under the Papenburg flag (and really belonging to the inhabitants of the small sovereignty of the Duke of Aremberg) which arrived in the ports of this kingdom before the order of general reprisals of the 14th, may have a claim on our justice and generosity to be released, as having come into our ports on the faith of an accustomed trade, founded on an implied amity; the breach of that amity was caused by events over which their sovereign had no control."

2. "That the embargo of the 16th April must be considered as a notice that the neutral character of Papenburg, a town

lying up the Emms in the entire control of Prussia, can no

longer be respected."

"We submit to you and to Mr. Fox, that this distinction, if approved by you, will give every relief that can in fairness be claimed; and will at the same time maintain a restraint which will contribute to distress the ports of Prussia, Holland and France."

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 14. Clifford Strect.—"The majority last night was such as to relieve me, in a great degree, from the uneasiness which I felt at having omitted, in my hurry and distress yesterday, to leave my proxy behind me. If you are not fully provided, I should wish you to take it for Monday and the two succeeding days; on Thursday I hope to attend again. If you are full, I will place it in the hands of Lord Ellenborough. It is my wish that it should not be used on the questions relating to Miss Seymour and Judge Fox."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, June 15. Palace Yard.—"The letter sent to-day by Lord Glenbervie and by me would have been addressed equally, and in the same words, to the first Lord of the Treasury, if he had not happened to be a private friend, and even if he had happened to be a political enemy. To you, however, I may add, that the consideration is of real importance to me, and also to Lord Glenbervie; and certainly if either the Treasury Board or a Committee of the House of Commons would refer to one or two of the volumes which record our proceedings, they will find proofs of labour such as few individuals would have given, or indeed could have undertaken, without a disposition and turn of mind to encounter an enormous mass of legal details, full of novelty and difficulty. Mr. Harrison and Mr. Young can give testimony to our seven years perseverance.

"It was a disappointment to me to find that you were not expected yesterday at Lord Wellesley's. The ladies of the family were present and the dinner went off pleasantly. But it was impossible not to regret both the domestic and Parliamentary circumstances which throw a shade over his

resettlement in this country.

"I am sickening both in mind and body under this London life, and I must escape to Eden Farm. But I will continue to attend at the Committee of Council, or rather at the Privy Council, for a large proportion of the business at present belongs to the latter Board."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, June 16.—"I have been prevented by various causes from writing to you on the subject of the agency to the Cape;

but principally by the wish of informing myself more particularly of the eireumstances of the ease, which I must

regret that I had not sooner enquired into.

My note, to which you refer, eertainly implied, that upon that as well as upon every other point of patronage, I should be happy to consider the general wants of the Government, and to lend myself, whenever I could, to your wishes. than this, as far as I ean recollect, was not said in respect even to the appointment itself; and still less was said as implying any doubt as to the right on which, after the best enquiry and eonsideration, I eannot find that any doubt is to be entertained. The transition, therefore, you must allow, was rather quiek from this state of things to the disposal of the place; and the disposal of it as of a place regularly and properly in the nomination of the Treasury. The loss of the place is to me a very serious consideration as it deprives me of the only means within the eompass of my own patronage of providing for some for whom I am peculiarly anxious, and who could not be benefited by any appointment which I might have to offer abroad. But the question of right is that to which I attach still greater consequence, because it involves eonsiderations, which, if not absolutely points of honour and duty, are not without effect on the character of the person who happens to be eoneerned in them. It is not pleasant to stand recorded in an Office as the chief in whose time patronage was lost to the Office, which had never been called in question during the time of any of his predecessors. The reason ought to be strong that can supersede, in cases of this sort, a practice long continued; and it seems to me that reason here, instead of opposing, is so perfectly on the side of practiee, that I eannot but flatter myself you must have been led from the beginning into some entirely wrong view of the

"The plain and broad distinction is, between agents appointed and paid here to transact business of Colonies for which there are Parliamentary grants; and agents appointed and paid abroad, and paid out the revenues of the Colonies, to transact their business with the various departments of Government, in eases where there are no Parliamentary grants. The former elass of agents have, as was natural, always been appointed by the Treasury; the latter have as naturally, and as I believe as constantly, been appointed by the Colonial Governments. The question between the Treasury and the Colonial Department here with respect to these latter agents, if any question eould arise, would not be who should appoint, but who should recommend. They have neither of them any right of appointing at all; and accordingly, in the ease of those settlements where there are assemblies, neither the one nor the other have any share in the procuring the nomination. But in those cases where the Government resides in a single person, or is confined to a

number who owe their appointment, more or less, to a department here, there the influence of that department finds its way, and the appointment is substantially made at home, though formally by the Government upon the spot. Nothing can prove this more decisively than the form of proceeding now proposed, by which I am desired to write a letter to the present Governor of the Cape, reciting that an agent is necessary for transacting various business of the Colony in this country, and requesting that he will appoint the person recommended to him for that Office. This has been the invariable course; and with such a course established, it seems impossible to say that the agency of the Cape is in the nomination of the Treasury, otherwise than as the same might be said of every appointment under every department of Government. It can as little be said that the nomination of these agents (that is the recommendation of them to the several Colonial Governments) has in fact been in the Treasury, though it may have formally passed through this Office.

"The enclosed list contains the names of all the persons, five in number, who now hold situations of the sort in question, some of whom have been appointed more than once, and all of whom will be found by those who know their connections to have been the nominations of the persons who were at the head of the Colonial Department. If a doubt could arise in the case of Huskisson, who was equally protected by Lord Melville and Mr. Pitt, that consideration would, on the other hand, do away with the idea of any management having been necessary on the part of Lord Melville to secure the appointment to Huskisson as to a friend of his own; and the date of his first appointment, as well as the testimony of those perfectly acquainted with the transaction, would equally prove that, in the form of the proceeding, there was no view to the object of rendering the appointment compatible with a seat in Parliament. The form in fact is no other than that which it is proposed to follow now, and which has been followed

in all former instances.

"I am really, therefore, and seriously at a loss to conceive on what ground this supposed right of nomination on the part of the Treasury can be made to rest; unless, as I said, in the same way in which it may be made to apply to the present or any other appointment through this and every other department. It certainly has not been acted upon for a period of now several years, and for a succession of not less than five Secretaries. It has not been shown that it was ever acted upon; but if it should, I must lament that, after so long an interval, it should just have been revived in my time. I say this without the least suspicion of any want on your part of the kindest and most friendly feelings towards me, but with a view only to what must necessarily be the effect, namely that of exhibiting me in the situation, in which I cannot consent to stand, of yielding from weakness, or

facility, or from whatever other cause, what no one had ever obtained, or appears even to have asked, from my

predecessors.

"It is sufficiently distressing to me to part with the present nomination, valuable as it would have been to me for the reasons which I have stated. But though by a progress not now necessary to be traced, that proceeding is gone to an extent from which it may not be capable of being easily recalled, I cannot consent to the completion of it, either in the way proposed or in any other, unless it shall be clearly understood that in so doing I establish no precedent, either against the Office or myself, with respect to any future appointment of the same sort."

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 16. Wimbledon Park.—"I enclose you a letter I received yesterday from the Duke of Bedford. With regard to the military question referred to in the beginning of it, I had, on Saturday evening, a long conversation with your brother the Marquis of Buckingham upon it, and he gave me some suggestions which I am in hopes, when put into shape, will be the means of obviating all the material difficulties which may arise, and do not appear to be likely to meet with any serious objections from the Duke of York. I shall employ myself here to-day in putting the heads of them into writing, and hope you will allow me to look over them with you on an early opportunity before we bring them forward officially. "I suppose the Duke's proposal for filling up the bishopric

of Limerick must be adopted.

"A messenger will be sent for me from my Office at two o'clock to-day, by whom, if you have anything to say to me, I shall be obliged to you to send me a line; and pray return the Duke of Bedford's letter."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, June 17. Downing Street.—"I enclose a letter from Lord Ranelagh. I am a perfect stranger to the transaction otherwise than that I believe Sir Evan Nepcan confirms his statement. Can anything, and what, be done for him. You may perhaps know that he married Sir P. Stephens's daughter, but she died, and I am told he had nothing settled upon him and is in great distress." Copy.

Private. MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 17. Oxford Street.—"I understand from Arthur that he concluded from the aspect of the meeting to-day, that Mr. Fox is to be against me. Can you inform me to what extent, or in what manner?"

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, June 17. Downing Street.—"I think it likely from Fox's conversation that he will be adverse, but to what extent, or in what manner, I believe he does not know; at least I was

totally unable to learn.

"I sent him, as we agreed yesterday, the memorandum about Oude. He quite satisfied me, as indeed I understood that your own leaning was, that it was in all respects better not to oppose hearing evidence.

"It occurred to me that the House might be pressed to

sit for that purpose in the morning.

"What was decided at the meeting?" Copy.

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 17. Clifford Street.—"I am sorry that when I had last the pleasure of seeing you, it did not occur to me to show you the enclosed letter, which I received on the preceding day. It is evident that though General Fitzpatrick's opinion was not to be changed, the measure would not have been pressed if it had been deemed objectionable, after a full and fair discussion. I should add that the Duke of York has, in a very handsome and gratifying letter to Bond, disclaimed any share in it. Under these circumstances I am strongly disposed to think that an accommodation may not be very difficult. Your suggestion to Bond respecting the mode of transmitting the King's pleasure on sentences of courts-martial, appears to me to afford a foundation for it. If adopted, it would apply to the professed, and I am convinced, the real object of the alteration; as it would afford to the Commander-in-Chief, and in his absence, to the Adjutant-General, an opportunity of submitting opinions to the King upon the proceedings of courts-martial, before the sentences were carried into execution, and even before his Majesty's pleasure, founded upon the representation of the Judge-Advocate-General, could be known elsewhere. I write in great haste and may not, I fear, have made myself intelligible. If you should see Bond be so good as not to mention this letter, as neither he nor any one besides is aware of my intention to write to you on this subject; and it is his wish, as indeed it is mine, to leave the whole entirely to your decision, without interference from any quarter."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to THE SAME.

1806, June 18. Phœnix Park.—"By a letter from Sir John Newport to Mr. Elliot I find it is his intention to bring a bill into Parliament for the appointment of commissioners to enquire into the state of the schools and Protestant education in Ireland, and the newspapers inform us that he has already moved for leave to bring in the bill. Upon this subject I have only to express my earnest hope that nothing will be determined, without a previous consultation with the Primate. If your lordship has not already conversed with him on the subject of this bill during his short stay in London, I request that it may be sent over here as soon as it is prepared, that I may have an opportunity of taking his grace's opinion upon it, before it passes the House of Commons.

"Your lordship, I am persuaded, will concur with me in the propriety of establishing a cordial, constant, and unreserved communication with the Primate on every subject of this nature. As the head of the Protestant schools of Ireland he appears to feel a just and laudable anxiety to connect Protestant education with the morals, industry and happiness of the people; and, in the last conversation I had with him on the subject, he observed to me that much useful information was to be obtained from the report of the Parliamentary eommission in 1788. This report, I am informed, was not printed, and no copy of it is to be found in the Office here. If we could obtain this document from your side of the water it might be of much use to us."

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, June 18. Downing Street.—"It is very unfortunate that no persons of the description you mention were present at the meeting, because my principal view in having the meeting was that some such persons should attend, and I had so explained it both to Vansittart and Lord Temple; but I fear the former was too full of his marriage to think of anything else. You know I cannot conduct these details myself, and I know not how to remedy the helplessness of others. Whenever the evidence is gone through, I would recommend another such meeting, and that Lord Temple and your brother should previously speak to the different persons who are likely to attend.

"Of Lord Morpeth's disposition I know nothing, except his general favourable dispositions towards myself. But I never can believe that either Lord Minto or he have anything to do with printing passages in *italics*, which is generally a trick practised by somebody after papers are laid upon the

table, and before they go to be printed.

"Nothing was ever said to the King about Alexander's going to the Cape as Secretary, nor have I a wish about it. The Office is undeniably in Windham's gift, and so I always considered it." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, June 18. Dublin Castle.—"Lord Henry Petty's suggestion relative to the eollege at Maynooth has not, I assure you, been out of my mind; but on conversing on the subject with the Chancellor, who, by virtue of his office, is a trustee of the institution, we both thought the arrangement

would require some consideration and management, first because the enlargement of the lay education might create a considerable alarm and jealousy on the part of Trinity College, where Roman Catholics are now permitted to graduate; and secondly, because we are not sure that it would be agreeable to several of the superior Catholic clergy. There are, however, one or two persons of that persuasion coming in the course of a very few weeks to Dublin, whom I am desirous of consulting; and when I have seen them, and when the Chancellor is more disengaged from the business of his court, you shall

hear from me again on this topic.

"From what I hear from the Chancellor, I am afraid there is little chance of Lord Ponsonby's acquiescence in any negotiation with the Beresfords, where his local parliamentary interests are concerned. If this should be the case, the support of Government must, I presume, be given to the Ponsonbys and to Sir John Newport; and it would be very desirable that there should be a full explanation on this point with the Beresfords, otherwise we shall have much future embarrassment. You will be able probably to ascertain Lord Ponsonby's views either from Lord Fitzwilliam or Fox, if his state of health does not enable him to call on you.

"I hope, if you should decide on a dissolution in the autumn, that you will send us a copy of the Parliamentary list which I transmitted to you, with such remarks and annotations as you may think necessary.

"The Primate has manifested so cordial a disposition to co-operate with the Duke on ecclesiastical matters, that the Duke is very solicitous that you should communicate with him, while he is in London, on any measures you may have in contemplation either with regard to the Church or to the schools of Ireland."

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 18. Wimbledon Park.—"I send you a draft which I scratched out last night to the Lord Lieutenant on the subject of the Church of Ireland. I read it over to the Primate to-day, who made no objection to it, and seemed to acquiesce completely in the measure. I proposed to him to take it home with him in order to suggest any additions, but this he declined to do. I shall be much obliged to you to look it over, and to make any corrections or alterations in it you may think fit; and then return it to me that I may forward it to Ireland.

"Am I to mention the proposed new bishop of Limerick to the King to-day? The Primate said he had no objections

to him."

Private. Lord Grenville to W. Elliot.

1806, June 20. Downing Street.—"As Newport is so much acquainted with Lord Ponsonby, I thought the shortest and best course was to express to him generally that I thought it not impossible that, through the intervention of Government, such an arrangement might be made respecting election interests as might be mutually satisfactory both to the Ponsonbys and Beresfords; and therefore that I wished he would converse with Lord Ponsonby and learn how far he would be disposed to such an arrangement, and what would be his views in it. This he was to have done, and called upon Lord Ponsonby for that purpose, but he was too ill to see anybody. Newport will take the first opportunity to try again, till then I see nothing we can do." Copy.

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, June 21. Stable Yard (Saturday night, near 12).— "I send you the letters I have received this evening from Lord Yarmouth. Though there is an appearance of flying off, I feel persuaded they would not insist upon Sicily; it being so contrary to the basis on which they still seem to rest.

"We have a Cabinet dinner to-morrow at Moira's, where these letters must be discussed. You will hardly take the trouble to come, but pray let me know your opinion on this point, namely, whether powers ought to be sent to Lord Yarmouth. Perhaps it would be right to send them with an injunction that he should not produce them till the point of Sicily is understood; and that he should acquaint Talleyrand both with his possession of the powers and the injunction.

"Hanover is to be given for the honour of the Crown, in return, our recognitions are given for the honour of his crown; for the rest, uti possidetis. Pray send the messenger back immediately, as I have a copy of one of the papers only."

LORD GRENVILLE to C. J. Fox.

1806, June 22. Dropmore.—"I lose no time in returning you the enclosed, with such suggestions as occur to me upon them.

"I have no doubt that what you propose is right as to giving Lord Yarmouth powers to treat, but with an injunction to declare to Talleyrand that he is not at liberty to produce those powers unless the point of Sicily be given up, as that demand on the part of France is wholly inconsistent with the basis of the *uti possidetis* for us, on which the whole of the negotiations must proceed.

"The difficulty that then remains is how shall the point of honour respecting Russia be maintained by us if they persist in keeping D'Oubril and Lord Yarmouth at a distance from each other, and of course misrepresent to each what the other is doing. We know now that Russia is not treating with them for a separate peace, and it is material that Lord Yarmouth should be apprized of all that has passed between Russia and us on that subject.

"My proposal would be that Lord Yarmouth should require either that Oubril should come to Paris in order that they may freely communicate with each other on the subject, and sign nothing upon which they are not mutually agreed; or, that the preliminaries should bear the same form as the provisional treaty of peace we made with America, namely, to take effect whenever a Russian peace is concluded; which, if it be true (as they say) that Oubril is ready to conclude, would lead to no delay, but if this be false would maintain our good faith.

"As to the terms that Russia might ask, I have no idea that the Emperor Alexander would really wish to prolong the war for the sake of the Austrian interests in Istria and Dalmatia, though doubtless very important to himself. But the sovereignty of Corfu he might fairly ask on the same ground of real possession on which we treat; for, though nominally independent, it is, I take it, now both occupied by his arms, and entirely under his influence and

control.

"I am sorry Lord Yarmouth has not said anything on the question of a definitive treaty being to be signed by all the allies on each side who choose to accede to it. This point in substance, for there may be different ways of arranging it in form, is essential to save our honour both towards Russia and Sweden. In all other points I think his papers clear

and satisfactory.

"Will you allow me to mention to you how urgent it is that no time should be lost in concluding an arrangement with the King of Sicily on the footing of something like the note I sent you; because, if further question arises on that point, our treaty with him will then form a part of the actual state of our possession in that respect. Something of the same sort must also be done as to Sardinia. If the King of Sardinia is reduced to that island we must take him and it under our protection, pension the former, and garrison the latter, and thus make of all these islands in the Mediterranean an important chain of stations highly useful to us both in war and commerce. The harbours of Sardinia were, as I recollect, of great use to Nelson (as well as those of Sicily) in his operations previous to Aboukir.

"Lord Yarmouth does not mention Spain, but I conclude that is to be included in the general $\tilde{u}ti$ possidetis which we ask for the rest of Europe. We have the better right to ask it when we renounce for it views on the Spanish possessions

in America.

"I shall be in town early to-morrow morning and will call upon you at the Office, or expect you in Downing Street, at any hour that suits you, in order to discuss these points together. If you wish me to come to town for the dinner to-day, I am still in time to receive your orders, and will not fail to obey them," Holograph copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, June 14. Dublin Castle.—"Sir John Newport has written to me lately on the subject of his interest in the city of Waterford. I have hitherto carefully abstained from touching any of the patronage there, thinking it might become a matter of future arrangement between him and the Beresfords. I have not felt myself at liberty to apprize him of the overtures I had received from the Beresfords; but, if you see no objection to it, I wish much you would have the goodness to communicate with him *confidentially* on these points, lest he should construe my reserve into an indifference to his views at the general election.

"You, I suppose, persevere in your intention of supporting Mr. Carew for the county of Wexford at the general election."

Postscript.—"Pray bind Newport to strict secresy in respect to whatever you may have to communicate to him with regard to the Beresfords."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, June 23. Dublin Castle.—"Sir John Newport some time ago intimated to me a strong wish to have the nomination of a friend for a seat at one of the Revenue Boards. Both the Duke and myself were anxious to comply with his request, not merely from motives of friendship to Newport, but from an impression that it would be desirable with a view to the public service that he should have a commissioner completely in his confidence. The person he has suggested is Mr. May, the collector of Waterford, with the intention that Mr. Creagh (Newport's brother-in-law) should succeed to the collectorship. It occurs to the Duke and me that these two appointments (both from Waterford) would have too much the appearance of an arrangement connected with the general election, and might, in the present temper of our adversaries, create a good deal of invidious observation. Under these circumstances I propose writing to Newport and explaining to him our apprehensions. He will of course take your judgment on the subject, and I have therefore deemed it proper to apprize you of the nature of our objections, to which I am sure the Duke would be sorry Newport should attribute more weight than you may think they deserve."

LORD GRENVILLE to C. J. Fox.

1806, June 23. Downing Street.—"I send you a letter from Lord Minto on the subject of the answer to be returned to the last communication of the Directors. I am confident that I need not tell you how painful it is to me to find my own opinion decidedly adverse to that which you and Lord Lauderdale entertain, particularly on a subject which he considers in any degree connected with the maintenance of his character. But I must say that I agree entirely with Lord

Minto's view of this question. I have repeatedly reconsidered it with all the attention it so well deserves, and I have carefully weighed the arguments contained in the paper which I received from Lord Lauderdale. But I remain firmly of opinion that the line of conduct there recommended could serve only to accredit, however unjustly, the imputation of intemperance, if any such rests upon him in the minds of any persons, and would justly entitle us to our full share of the

same reproach.

"In support of Lord Lauderdale's nomination all has surely been done that his honour and the honour of government required. To succeed in that object is now manifestly impossible. He himself appears indeed to cherish an expectation that a lapse will be suffered to take place, and that he may still in that manner be appointed. Of the grounds of that expectation I am ignorant; but all I have heard or seen of the past conduct and present temper of the Directors fully convinces me that Lord Lauderdale's wishes mislead his judgment, and he is as much too sanguine in this instance as he has certainly been in the former stages of his business.

"If this be the case, what course are we then to take? In what manner can we compel the Directors to accept from us a nomination to which they are decidedly adverse? In the relations between government and the company fixed by the existing laws, it is undeniable that the Directors ought to have at least a negative on the choice of a Governor-General. This negative they have now exercised in a manner very contrary to our opinion. But can we for that reason refuse all further communication with them on a point of such infinite importance to the interests of the empire as the

appointment of a Governor-General for India?

'The proposal which they last made to us was as conciliatory, both in form and substance, as it could possibly have been without departing from the right which they meant to exercise, and which we cannot deny to them. If to that proposal we return a sullen negative; if, because we cannot carry that appointment which we think the best, we decline to accept their offer of naming the person next in our choice, we shall, I am convinced, be universally and justly condemned for an unwarrantable sacrifice of public interests to motives and feelings which, even if well-founded, are purely personal. But I do not agree that Lord Lauderdale's character is, in fact, at all implicated in our present decision. I cannot see in what manner our recommendation of Lord Minto would operate as an acquiescence in the objections of others against Lord Lauderdale. What those objections are the Directors have never told us. Be they what they may, we have repeatedly and earnestly protested against them; and in recommending Lord Minto we ought undoubtedly once more, and in the strongest terms, to renew that protest as against a measure highly injurious to the public interests. But in yielding

to a necessity which we cannot control, we do not recognise its justice; nor, in recommending the best *practicable* nomination, do we cease to assert that our former choice was

preferable to this.

"To adopt any other line would in my judgment be contrary to our duty both to the public and to ourselves. It would be injurious to our own character and to the character of the government. It would be inconsistent with what we owe to all our other friends, and most particularly to Lord Minto This office was first proposed for him. authorised to propose it to him, and I did so, but fortunately in such terms as did not prevent my postponing his claims to those of Lord Lauderdale when the wishes of the latter became known to us. From that moment he, as well as myself, used every exertion to carry those wishes into effect. But when this is found to be plainly impossible, I must say that it is too much again to put by Lord Minto's wishes and objects, and to incur at the same time all the odium and mischief of a contest with the Directors on bad grounds, and all the risks of a choice personally embarrassing to ourselves and injurious to the public interests; and this for no other purpose than that of manifesting an unavailing resentment at a decision which we could not prevent, and which such a conduct has no tendency to alter, except indeed by the additional exasperation it must create.

"Nor can I conceal from you, wishing as I do to have no reserves with you on these subjects, what are the ulterior views which I entertain as consequent upon Lord Minto's appointment. His office had always been in my mind destined for my brother from the moment that I consented to the proposal of recommending Lord Henry Petty for the Exchequer Seals. No part of the arrangement ultimately formed was or could be so distressing to me as the failure of this object, and you know that I have more than once so expressed myself to you. I am confident no other circumstance has proved in the event equally prejudicial to the interests of our government, and knowing the opinion you entertain of him, I am sure the claim which I must make of that situation for him, accompanied with a seat in the Cabinet, could meet with no reluctance on your part whenever the

opening shall arise.

"I fully shared in your desire to do everything that the warmest zeal could dictate to uphold Lord Lauderdale's

pretensions.

"I am conscious of having done this to the very utmost by the exertion of the whole weight of Government as far as it was in my hands, and even by the unprecedented step of a personal canvass of the Directors. I did so the more zealously because, seeing what might come in question in case of failure, I was resolved that no personal views of mine either for myself or for those most nearly connected with me should interfere with the most honourable discharge of what was due to yourself and to Lord Lauderdale. But when the accomplishment of his wishes is clearly impracticable, I cannot help expressing the hope that, in return, you will feel the same anxiety on your part to mould the new arrangement which must now be looked to, into such a shape as may best afford the opening for satisfying the just expectations I entertain on the subject of my brother. For myself at least I am sure no man can think it reasonable that I should be required to put these objects to hazard by doing that which I think wrong in itself, by declining to express a recommendation which is asked of us by the Directors in a spirit of conciliation, and which, in the common course of things, we are naturally called upon to give.

"My opinion of the course to be pursued by us in this business is, however, in no degree dependent upon the question of the particular individuals whose situations or pretensions may be brought into question by it. If the arrangement I have mentioned were wholly out of view, I should still think that our answer to a conciliatory proposition ought to be conciliatory, and that we ought to comply with the request now made to us of suggesting some other name in the place of one to which there appear to be objections, insuperable though unreasonable, on the part of those whose right to a negative in such case we cannot

deny.

"I have stated to you all that is in my mind as to this subject because I cannot bear the idea of any concealment in such a case. But I trust you will do me the justice to understand that I do not mix the two questions which are in themselves perfectly distinct. I hope the views I have explained to you cannot be thought unreasonable; but if I were satisfied that they were so in the highest degree, I should equally be of opinion that some fresh arrangement must be made on the subject, and that some new recommendation ought in the present circumstances to be transmitted to the Directors.

"This is the point that presses first for decision, and on which it was therefore indispensably necessary that I should express my opinion to you. The other may easily be postponed for a subsequent consideration, nor would any other motives but those which I have stated to you have led me to advert to it in this letter." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, June 24. Downing Street.—"Both Lord Spencer and I have seen the Primate and conversed fully with him, and I trust he is well satisfied of our desire to act in the most perfect concurrence and co-operation with him in all that relates to the objects which you have mentioned. Sir J. Newport will, I trust, have explained to Mr. Elliot that his

proposed bill does nothing more than revive the powers of a former act which the Primate thought was still in existence, but which was found on enquiry to have expired. But I shall see him to-day, and I will again desire him not to proceed in it till the bill has been sent to Ireland and returned to us with your opinion upon it. I wish I knew where to get at the report of the commission of 1788. We have not, as far as I can find, any copy of it here. Newport showed me a sort of summary of it that had been made, I think, by Corry and Cooke. If we cannot find the original I will desire him to have this abstract copied and sent over to Ireland."

Postscript.—"Since I wrote the above I have seen in the Irish journals the report of a committee of the Irish House of Commons on this subject which seems to contain some useful information, but I have not had time yet to look into

it." Copy.

THE SAME to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, June 24. Downing Street.—"On the fullest consideration of your brother's case, I am afraid I must say it is impossible to make a foreign Minister's provision for him on the scale he wishes, or indeed on any scale worth his

acceptance.

"If you will look yourself at the Civil List Act you will see that the power there given is only that of enabling the King to allow to his foreign Ministers when unemployed a certain proportion of their allowances. It is plain therefore that these allowances must have reference to their former pay, and that we cannot take as the ground of such proportion the salary and other incidents, of a situation which your brother was indeed named to, but which untoward circumstances prevented him from ever executing.

"The time he has passed in India has undoubtedly been employed for the public service, but not for the public service in the Foreign Department; and it would be as improper to take that into consideration in giving a foreign Minister provision, as it would be to fix Sir J. Warren's pension by a reference, not to his services at Petersburgh, but to his

professional merits as a seaman.

"You are too just not to see the force of these difficulties, and I am sure you would be the last person in the world to wish that I should do in such a case what I could not justify either to myself or to the world." Copy.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 24. Oxford Street.—"I return you many thanks for your kind note respecting my brother Henry. Be assured that I am thoroughly convinced of your good wishes on every point affecting my interests, or those of my family. You do me justice in believing that I am incapable

of urging any request which could involve you in difficulty; and I am satisfied that Henry would not advance any claim, which he did not think well founded. The observations which you make upon his claim appear to me to be just, and, as far as my own sentiments are concerned, I think it is due to you to assure you that I am completely satisfied. However, as I have not yet seen Henry, it is possible that he may state some further considerations to be submitted to you; and in that event, I am convinced that you will examine with kindness whatever he may allege."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 24. Eden Farm.—"I go to town to-morrow on some Privy Council businesses almost of importance sufficient to merit your attention and attendance, but Lord Henry Petty and Mr. Vansittart are summoned, and we will report to you if any doubts or difficulties should arise. The businesses are:—

"1. The drainage, canals, new purchase of lands, and other expensive considerations proposed for the completion

of the lazarettos on Chetney Hill.

"2. A discussion with Mr. Rennie as to the building of the Mint on Tower Hill. That great undertaking is not yet

reduced to any regular system of contracts.

"3. The final adjustment of a quarantine Bill, which we have prepared with great care and various advice, and which will not have any opposition; Mr. Rose having contributed

to it very materially.

"4. A Pilotage Bill, which has been in a course of preparation during three years, and is of very great importance. It is not proposed however to pass it this year, but only to carry it through the committee and to print and circulate it.

"I should have added, with respect to the quarantine Bill, that it is highly important to extend that system to

Ireland; at present it is confined to Great Britain.

"5. A petition from Demarara, Berbice, and Essequibo proprietors for an order of Council to qualify the Act as to the importation of slaves and cultivation. I propose to decline entering into a subject which has been so recently before Parliament.

"6. The new instructions to the Governor of Newfoundland. The above, added to the numerous incidents of the day,

will furnish an ample bill of farc.

"I presume that the Tortola Bill will go forwards without further difficulty: but I will enquire about it at the House.

Private. "I would rather abandon any personal advantage, however material to me, than permit it to be attained in a form that might subject you to any fair attack. And therefore, as I have doubts whether a Treasury warrant, in favour of the two acting Lord Commissioners for redeeming

Land Tax, might not be a questionable mode of proceeding, I have received the advice of the Speaker. He is decidedly of opinion that the compensation should be proposed and voted in the Committee of supplies (to which the report may be referred) and that it cannot meet with any opposition. Lord Glenbervie has since seen Mr. Harrison for the purpose of settling the motion, that, at the proper time, it may be submitted to you for your approbation or correction.

"The Speaker has also assisted me in preparing the enclosed outline of a short Bill, if you continue to think with us that the measure is right in itself, and creditable to your Government. When the outline shall be approved, I will settle the particulars with Mr. Harrison. We calculate that the gain made by the public from the ecclesiastical and charitable bodies would clear the Land Tax of all the small livings and small

charities, and leave a considerable residue."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, June 24. Downing Street.—"The Demerara planters having addressed their petition to the King in Council, Lord Fitzwilliam seemed to feel that it was not possible to avoid referring it to a committee. The proceeding need however be very short, for when the Bill was first introduced I heard all they had to say, and they have not a foot of ground to stand upon.

"I believe the form in which you propose that the matter of the compensation should be put, is the right one. Vansittart might have settled it with you in ten minutes if there were not just now obvious objections to his being the person to bring it forward. I must therefore speak to Lord

Henry about it.

"I think the draft of the bill you suggest unexceptionable. When you have fully considered it, I will trouble you to return it to me, and I will fix a time for conversing with you and Lord Henry upon it. I return the draft with this note." Copy.

Private. MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 24. Oxford Street.—"I send you a letter, which I have just now received from Barlow; it contained copies of his treaties with Scindiah and Holkar. They are too long to trouble you with at present. But I am happy to assure you that they are ably and effectually done; that they contain no concession which I should not have made under similar circumstances; and that they retain and, I trust, secure all the main advantages of the conquests achieved under my government. I therefore consider this event as of great importance to our interests in the East, and I sincerely congratulate you on the prospects which it opens.

"I am very anxious to see you on the general subject of India, and also respecting Barlow's situation. Both require immediate attention.

"Be so good as to return Barlow's letter by this messenger,

and, if possible, name a time for seeing me.

"My cause seems at length to be in a way of obtaining justice. I am very cordially sensible of your kindness, to which I am deeply indebted. Perhaps it may now be thought wise even by your colleagues to make some effort to extricate from utter ruin and misery the person, who is the efficient cause of our present transcendant situation in the most valuable branch of our foreign empire. This can only be done by compelling my assassin to bring my whole case to immediate issue."

C. J. Fox to Lord Grenville.

1806, June 24. Stable Yard.—"I send you my draft for the inspection of the Cabinet as well as of yourself. I will write a private letter to Lord Yarmouth in regard to sending

a person, if necessary, to draw up articles.

"I am too much tried with writing and pain to be able to answer your letter of yesterday. At present I can only say that of the three things proposed there is only one which I approve, and that one unfortunately depends on the carrying into execution of the former two, both of which I almost equally dislike. However, I suppose I must acquiesce, where, I am sorry to say, I cannot concur.

"I am a little hurt, too, when you were looking to the consequences of our yielding, that the *first* consideration with you should not have been what was to be offered to Lauderdale.

"I am afraid Lord Minto will be hardly judged. I know all that is to be said on his side but yet—appearances.

Ουσζηλοι ναρτ'ειμεν επι χθουι φυλ'ανθρωπων.

"I will write more fully on this to-morrow. My desire of

T. Grenville in the Cabinet is hardly less than yours."

Stable Yard, 9 o'clock.—"I must have the draft to send to the King to-night. If you think of any alterations write them on a separate paper, and most probably they may be such as may be made after the King has seen the draft. I wish to send it off to-morrow. Lord Howick must have a vessel ready to carry it to Boulogne."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, June 25. Eden Farm.—"I go to town early to-morrow:—

"1. To adjust with the Speaker and Messicurs Wyatt, Groves, the Dean of Westminster and others, the further progress and completion of the Westminster improvements.

"2. To discuss with the Commissioners of Customs and

some merchants connected with the Newfoundland, American, and Mediterranean trade, the warehousing project for Malta and Gibraltar. I have a strong persuasion in favour of that project, which might gradually become of gigantic importance to us.

"I shall attend of course in Whitehall on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, as long as any business remains unfinished. I wish to avoid the House of Lords, but will attend there also if anything should arise to make you wish it particularly. In the meantime I have requested my old friend Lord Hood to vacate his proxy and to go when

summoned.

"I have sent to Mr. Harrison our outline of the Bill for redeeming Church land tax, and have desired him to put it into technical form, and to deliver it to you. He understands the subject perfectly, and sees it in the same light that we all see it. Indeed I have no doubt that it will bring forward the opulent corporations with a profit to the public far beyond the sacrifice to be incurred. It will, however, be necessary that Lord Henry Petty should have explanations of this subject, which is quite new to him. I will send to-morrow to Downing Street the two first volumes of the Proceedings of the Lords Commissioners. These volumes will serve to show the nature of the land tax redemption; and they will also satisfy him that the pretensions to a compensation are most just and reasonable. They can remain for the present on one of your tables.

"We are much occupied at present by our various marriages; after which we meditate a visit to Shottesbrooke, and should have paid our respects at Dropmore on our way; but I fear that the session will not be completed soon enough

for that part of our plan."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, June 26. Oxford Street.—"I am just now going out of town to Richard, and I hope to be able to return with

him by Monday, or at least early in the next week.

"The subject on which I spoke to you last night is really become quite tedious to me, and I am convinced it must be vexatious to you. It is therefore my determination to leave the matter entirely to your judgment. I am ready to answer upon any inquiry; and I am satisfied that neither you nor the majority of the House will suffer any unjust prejudice to be east upon my cause. My brothers will be prepared in Parliament to express these sentiments, and here I shall leave the subject without attempting to give any further trouble upon it.

"When you have decided with Lord Howick the line which you propose to take on Monday, it might be useful to acquaint Arthur with your intentions. Upon that point however you

will exercise your own judgment. Arthur will always be ready to attend you. He is in town, No. 11, Harley Street.

"I wish you could let me know whether you have decided anything respecting my brother Pole, or whether you are likely to be able to promote his wishes."

Private. Lord Grenville to Viscount Sidmouth.

1806, June 26. Downing Street.—"I had some conversation yesterday with Lord Wellesley and Lord Temple respecting the course to be pursued on the subject of the Oude charges, on which the evidence is now closed, or on the point of being so. I believe the impression is very general that Paul has entirely failed to establish his accusation; and he now seems only to wish to put off the decision till the next session, a course of manifest and indefensible injustice.

"Notice has therefore been given on the part of Lord Temple that, if Paul does not bring the question forward before Wednesday next, Lord Temple will on that day submit to the House a motion upon it, and I sketched the enclosed which I now send for your consideration. I should be very glad to

know your ideas upon it.

"The business I mentioned to you is not arranged owing to F[ox's] illness, but I trust it will be satisfactorily settled." Copy.

Private. The Same to C. J. Fox.

1806, June 27.—"In consequence of a conversation I have had this morning with Lord Lauderdale, I mean, if you do not object to it, to desire Lord Minto to appoint the Chairman and Deputy to-morrow that I may deliver to them a paper recommending Lord Minto; protesting at the same time against what has passed on their part as being decidedly contrary to our deliberate opinion.

"I was, however, unwilling to take this step without first mentioning it to you; but unless you wish me to stop it, I

beg you will not trouble yourself to write.

"I shall of course immediately put every thing in course for the Great Seal of Scotland being put into Lord Lauderdale's hands, which I considered of course on his not being named to India." Copy.

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 27. Richmond Park.—"I entirely concur with you in thinking it indispensably due to Lord Wellesley that there should be a decision on the Oude charge, previous to the prorogation; and the question upon which it is proposed to take the sense of the House of Commons appears to me to be well calculated to obtain the support of a large majority.

"The words that 'this charge be dismissed' are, I rather think, novel; if they should be eonsidered as objectionable by any of those who wish to support the motion they might be omitted, and no other alteration would be necessary than the substitution of the word 'appears' for 'appearing' in the

first line of the proposed resolution.

"In eonsequence of my continued absence from town, your letter did not reach me till this evening; from the same cause, I had not received a summons to the Cabinet, which, I conclude, met yesterday in Downing Street. The change of the place of meeting makes me apprehensive that Mr. F[ox] is very unwell. On that subject I have most uncomfortable forebodings. I mean to take my chance of finding you at liberty for five minutes about twelve o'clock to-morrow, but I should not be sorry to hear that you were gone to Dropmore."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, June 29.—"My brothers have been very urgent with me, especially Arthur, to induce me to state for your consideration their opinion, that I ought to be present in the House of Lords to-morrow upon Lord Melville's motion, in order to defend myself, if any attack should be made upon me, and also in order to bear testimony to Barlow's conduct under me, without any reference to subsequent arrangements.

"It seems that an attempt has been made with success in the City to raise an opinion that I have been instrumental to Barlow's recall; and notions are circulated that I have injured Barlow in your opinion. No rumour, as you know, was ever more false or absurd. But it prevails; and is eertainly injurious to me. I eonfess that the inclination of my own mind is rather towards your advice, which led to dissuade me from attending to-morrow in the House of Lords. I wish, however, that you would reconsider the question; and, in a few lines, without troubling yourself to reason the point, state to me whether you think I ought to attend or not. Let me know your opinion pretty early in the day; I will follow your advice implicitly. I find that the sudden recall of Barlow is very unpopular; and unless you are too far advanced for any compromise, I think you would gain eonsiderable advantage by continuing him undisturbed at least for another season. I am satisfied that such a measure would be useful to the public interests, and to your own reputation in a variety of eonsiderations; and, if you ean possibly pursue this moderate eourse, I would earnestly recommend it. If (as I hear) your first engagement is now out of the question, perhaps you might be able to eoneiliate the Directors by permitting Barlow to remain for a season; taking the new ground of the treaties, and of the arrangements connected with them. You will excuse this plain statement of my opinion, which is founded upon my knowledge of the general sentiments of the public in London."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 29.—"I send you with this the letter for the appointment of Mr. Agar to the agency of the Cape. I cannot dissemble that it happens in this instance that the sacrifice is considerable, as it deprives me of the only means of providing for some who cannot be benefited by anything which I could offer them abroad. I will flatter myself that, as opportunities occur, you may find one for disposing to equal advantage of Mr. Agar, and enable me thereby to apply this according to its original destination."

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to THE SAME.

1806, June 29. Buckingham House.—"My satisfaction of every sort on the contents of your note, which I have just received, can only be equalled by my sense of the kind attention that suggested to you how much such a cordial would relieve an invalid. I verily believe that nothing you could suggest is more likely than this arrangement to contribute to your private comfort, or to your public situation; and it is peculiarly invaluable at a moment when it is impossible to disguise from ourselves the hourly increasing

difficulties of public affairs.

"I fear that the die is cast respecting Fox, whether his life be protracted a few months or not; and I will fairly say that I see no solution that will give you either in Cabinet, or in the House of Commons, reasonable grounds for confidence or security; and, on the other hand, I cannot but turn with extreme disgust from those who, with a thousand duties to the public, and as many personal duties to you, have discharged those duties to both so ill. It will remain to be seen what engagements Mr. Fox's friends would contract, and what reasonable security they would hold out to you in case he should be forced by illness to vacate, or in case of his death; but I am satisfied that the result of a coalition with the present Opposition would be a complete surrender of the House of Commons to them, such as would turn you out of office in six months, or sooner, if the King should so think fit; and with a grievous diminution of character and of public confidence; more especially as such a coalition could not take place without including that acquitted man Lord Melville, whom you have saved, and who has instantly hoisted the Indian and Scotch standard against you.

"Very much however of all this will depend upon the issue of your negotiations, on which I will fairly say that I distrust you so much because I feel that I should distrust myself. It is so obviously the interest of Bonaparte to

sacrifice so much in præsenti for the immense objects in futuro, that I fear he will make it impossible for you to refuse his peace—suppose him to agree to cede Hanover and Malta—and yet such a peace would be the death warrant to England, either with respect to foreign relations or to domestic security.

"But I know not why I make you so bad a return for the pleasure your note gives me, for certainly your view of your difficulties did not want any colouring from my sombre pencil. The bright side of the picture is the perfect understanding and cordial union of all those who love each other, and look to their present and future comforts in that love and union."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, June 30. [Pall Mall.]—"I find by inquiry that there is no objection whatever on the score of professional practice to Craufurd's appointment to the command of the force about to be sent to South America. Maitland was only a Colonel when he was sent to the command of St. Domingo; and the present Major-General Spencer was not more than half way up the list of Lieutenant-Colonels, when he was made a Brigadier in the West Indies. Upon that latter precedent, therefore, as well as upon others, there would be no objection to granting to Craufurd the local rank of Major-General, were it necessary; but the number of troops which he would have to command would require nothing but the rank of Brigadier. In every other view the case is perfectly clear. There can be no service in which it is so necessary that the person employed should carry out the immediate sentiments of his employers, and be a person selected by them; and I know not in the whole army list a person more to be confided in than Craufurd. Every one confesses his good sense and talents as an officer; his length of service is not less than that of half the Lieutenant-Generals, namely, six and twenty years; and his probity and disinterestedness have been evinced both in the circumstances which have brought us together, and have shown themselves in every transaction since. He has literally sacrificed all his professional prospects to the part he took in Parliament, and scarcely an opportunity can be looked for for replacing them, should the present be passed over. Among his other claims is the moderation and modesty with which he has urged his wishes on the present occasion, after having been giving to me, for now five months, his assistance as Under-Secretary of State, in mere consideration of my wish to have placed him in that situation.

"I should really never be able to look him in the face if I were to pass him by upon this occasion; nor could I reconcile it to my belief of what is best for the service, were I to put the execution of it in the hands of any one whose name has occurred to me, in preference to his. Besides the advantage

of sending to such a command a person who can take with him the last ideas of Government, communicated to him personally as well as in writing, the officer deputed by those whose conduct has made their recall necessary, even though he may not be so blameable as to be an object of direct censure, is not precisely the person whom you would choose for so delicate a service.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, June 30.—"I saw Canning this morning, and without committing you in any degree, conversed upon the prospects of different parties, and particularly upon the scale of pretensions among the leaders of the Opposition. I found from him that they were to have a meeting on Wednesday for the express purpose of adjusting their plans for the summer and autumn, with a view to the event of any change of circumstances. He said that after that meeting it would be more easy to speak positively with regard to the relative pretensions of those who had led among them, and with regard also to the degree of union which was likely to be maintained in the whole body upon any future occasion.

"As far as I could collect however from a very desultory conversation, it appears that Lord Melville's views are more likely to be directed to the advancement of his son, than to any objects for himself; and that although any exclusion of him, upon any principle which might be deemed disgraceful, would of course be inadmissible, it was not probable that Lord Melville personally would press for office at any time.

"The persons named as the principal leaders were Lord Hawkesbury, Lord Castlereagh, and Percival. I could not however ascertain what their expectations are in the event

of arranging any new system.

"I shall see Canning again on Wednesday, immediately after their meeting, or in the course of that day, when I shall be able to learn the exact state of their views.

THOMAS GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, June 30. Charles Street.—"General Du Mourier has enclosed to me three papers which he has already communicated to Mr. Fox, and which he desires me to forward to you. The first is a project of the northern league; the second contains two letters from Du Mourier to the King of Sweden whom he saw at Stralsund six weeks ago; and the third is a project for the defence of Sicily and of Sardinia; that of Sicily by a large English force, and that of Sardinia by a marine of frigates, sloops and smaller vessels.

"Du Mourier tells me that he has always thought it his duty since he has been in this country, to communicate all papers of this description both to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to the most influencing Minister in the Government, and

therefore desires me to send them to you.

"There are some parts of the northern project, and of his notions about the Mediterranean, that appear to deserve notice."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, June 30. Dublin Castle.—"As Newport seems to entertain the hope of being able to leave London carly in the next month, I must beg you not to let him go without seeing Lord Ponsonby, as it may be productive of endless embarrassment if the line Government is to pursue in respect to the Beresfords and Ponsonbys is not settled and defined under your authority. There should also be an explanation between Newport and the Beresfords about the city of Waterford. I presume you persevere in the intention of supporting Carew for the county of Wexford at the general election.

"Lord Spencer will have mentioned to you that Mr. Justice Johnson is anxious to be secured from the possibility of any future proceeding against him in consequence of his conviction, by a noli prosequi. I know not what you may ultimately judge proper to do upon this point; but I am solicitous you should understand that I have carefully abstained from holding out to him any expectation of a

compliance with his request."

EARL TEMPLE to THE SAME.

1806, June 30. Pall Mall.—"Parnell called upon me to-day to communicate to me a message with which he is charged to you from Lord Clermont, but which, not having been presented to you, he preferred giving in the first instance through me. Lord Clermont desires you will not conceive Fortescue, the Irish member his nephew, to be in opposition. This he has thought it necessary to explain, as Fortescue has been making as if he was in opposition the whole session; but Lord Clermont has sworn, and Fortescue has sworn too, that his wish and intention is to support your government. I take it for granted that this is preparatory to some attempt at a job; but as Lord Clermont probably wishes the message to be delivered to you by Parnell, will you desire Mr. Fisher to appoint him any hour, on any day, merely that he may say what I have written."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, July 1. Eden Farm.—"In my frequent excursions from this place to Whitehall, I do not attempt to call on you, though it would often remove my doubts and difficulties, if I could engage your attention for a moment.

"I yesterday settled finally a report to the King in Council on the location of lands in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

It has been a very troublesome business, and we were well assisted by Mr. Uniacke, the Attorney General for Nova Scotia, who seems to possess considerable ability and information. I have desired Mr. Fawkener to lay our draft before you, and you will see that your suggestions have been particularly adverted to. Mr. Uniacke is of opinion that this measure will gradually work itself into a most extensive

and beneficial operation.

"The Sydney (of 900 tons) being expected every day from New South Wales with a cargo of seal skins and oil, we have ordered the vessel to be admitted to entry, and the cargo for home consumption; and we have apprised the East India directors that this order is without prejudice to any right or claim of right on their part; it being our intention, as soon as time will allow, to take the whole subject into consideration, and to bring it under the view of his Majesty's ministers.

"Applications are making for licenses to Prussian vessels to bring masts, spars and naval stores from Dantzig. It is extremely objectionable to trade avowedly under the flag of an enemy; but Lord Howick, with whom I have corresponded and consulted on the subject, seems desirous that such cargoes should come, at all events if for the use of the navy. I shall

know more to-morrow at the Board.

"We have completed the Bill to allow certain enumerated articles' (oil, wine and cork) 'to [be] exported direct from Gibraltar and Malta to his Majesty's colonies in North America, in return for North American fish.' Some applications are now making to extend that provision to Lisbon; but as the experiment is novel, it seems best for the present to confine it to our own possessions. The Duke of Kent has written a very handsome note on the importance of this Bill.

"Mr. Vansittart and Sir Joseph Bankes have much assisted me in the discussions respecting the lazarettos and warehouses on Chetney Hill. We shall make our report to-morrow

to the Treasury.

"We have ordered a small copper coinage (tokens) for the use of the Bahamas, to be executed immediately by Mr. Bolton, deducting from the intrinsic value only so much as shall pay the expense.

"It seems desirable to avoid bringing forwards any new Bills, and to close the session, if possible, on the 16th or

17th at the latest."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 2.—"I have just now seen Canning again; from him I collect, that the greater portion of the present Opposition is personally well disposed towards you, and Canning particularly so; that, however, they are resolved to adhere together as a body, and that the leading individuals would think it injurious to the public service, as well as to their own reputations, to form any connection without the concurrence of the corps. That if any propositions were to be made to any of them, their first inquiry would be, whether it came from the King, without whose direct authority none of them would be disposed to enter into any discussions relative to

the acceptance of office.

"Upon the whole it appeared to me that Canning's opinion is, that it would be difficult to obtain any considerable aid from the Opposition without a previous dissolution of the present Government, and a new construction upon such a basis as might appear advisable under such circumstances. In the event of a dissolution of the present Government, his opinion is, that all would unite in considering you to be the most proper person to form a new system, which might then be composed of such materials as might appear to promise duration. The crisis would (in his view of it), be nearly the same as that which occurred upon Pitt's death, and a fair consideration might then be given to the relative pretensions of all parties under your general control.

"I am inclined to believe that he spoke to me with sincerity

"I am inclined to believe that he spoke to me with sincerity and fairness, and with an extensive knowledge of the state of the House of Commons, and of partics generally. He said that it was obviously the interest of himself and his friends rather to avoid than to seek office in the present moment, as it was evident that their pretensions would be augmented by acting in a body for a longer period of time, under circumstances

of increasing advantage.

"I think it is therefore improbable that any large body of the Opposition would easily be disposed to act with the present Government in the event of any calamity depriving

you of Mr. Fox's aid.

"With regard to individuals, I found that Canning spoke of Lord Camden as a person on whom he did not rely, and whose conduct was deemed doubtful and even unimportant by the party. I do not believe this sentiment to be general. I am convinced that Lord Camden is highly respected by many of the party; but it may be useful to you to know that he was not numbered among the chiefs in the account which I received to-day.

"My opinion upon the whole question (founded on the impressions which I have received from Canning's conversation, and from the general language of my brothers), is that you will not be able to draw any material assistance from the Opposition in the event of Mr. Fox's death, unless that event should produce a totally new construction of the whole Government. In that case, you will certainly possess the power of proportioning the materials of a new system according to such principles as you may deem most secure. When I say you will possess the power, I make no reference to your engagements with Mr. Fox's friends, of which you

know the extent better than I do: but I am satisfied that no other obstacle would exist, to prevent the formation of a Government of great strength under your control.

"I have been confined to my house for two days by a cold, and cannot yet go out. To-morrow my daughter is to be

married by Doctor Moss."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, July 2. Downing Street.—"It seems to me perfectly impossible that the Prussian ships (whatever be their cargoes) can come here under Prussian colours. There is also a new difficulty which has arisen on the part of his Swedish majesty, who blocks all the Baltic ports of Prussia. I should wish to see you for a few minutes on this latter point, on which something more must be done.

"Vansittart has promised me to expedite all the business now before the House, and certainly no new points must be

brought forward there." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 2. Palace Yard.—"Your note having been brought to this house, was not received by me till this moment, on returning from the Whitehall businesses which happened to be longer than usual.

"I will wait on you at half-past ten on Friday morning, in the hope of being admitted for three or four minutes.

"In your interdiction of new points to be brought before the House, you will not include a few provisions for the benefit of trades, which we are adjusting with the Commissioners of Customs, and which are of considerable importance, and not on debateable grounds."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, July 3. Downing Street.—"There is reason to believe that, in case of a dissolution of Parliament, Lord Frederic Montague would not offer himself again for Huntingdonshire; and in that event, there seems ground to hope that Lord Proby might be considered by the county in general as an unexceptionable candidate. If your grace is not under any other engagement in this respect, I need hardly say that I should feel myself most particularly obliged by your support of Lord Proby; and I believe the knowledge that he had the advantage of your good wishes and powerful interest would decide him to offer himself, and would, I trust, insure his election. Copy.

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 3. Phœnix Park.—"I have the honour to transmit for your lordship's consideration a list of the can-

didates who present themselves to our choice to fill the vacant seats at the Boards of Revenue, together with Mr. Elliott's observations on the merits of each, in the propriety of which I entirely concur with him. The arrangement for Mr. Marsden's retirement being now, I hope, completed by the assistance we have received from your side of the water, his appointment to one of the Boards may, I presume, be considered as decided upon; and I am persuaded we shall gain by it a very useful and efficient member. Another seat your lordship will recollect was promised to Mr. A. Hutchinson, in the arrangement concluded with Lord Donoughmore previous to my leaving England; and, beyond these, no engagement has been made, and no expectation held out, with the exception of a seat to be reserved for the recommendation of Sir John Newport; a request on his part, which Mr. Elliott and I concurred in thinking to be just and reasonable, and on every account fit to be acceded to. In the disposal of the remaining three seats we are anxious to obtain your lordship's opinion.

"Mr. Dundas stands first on the list, and his name has been so strongly urged by the Latouches, that I cannot help thinking his appointment in this respect most desirable; though of his probable efficiency, I am sorry to add, I have not heard any very favourable report. My own wishes incline strongly to Mr. Lambert, as Mr. Coke is so extremely anxious about him, and I have reason to believe he would prove an efficient member; but I have no desire to press him against what may be considered as better founded or stronger claims.

"The Ponsonbys are particularly anxious in favour of Mr. Taylor, and if he is disposed to give up his army agency, the appointment, I think, would be a very proper one; but I presume your lordship would not approve of a Commissioner of Revenue exercising also the office of army agent.

"Mr. Hardy is strongly recommended by Mr. Fox and Lord Moira, and would be an useful member, if he does not object to reside in Dublin, of which it appears there are some

doubts.

"Mr. Therry would also make a very unexceptionable commissioner, and the important object which his Majesty's ministers have in view of extending the countenance and goodwill of government towards the Roman Catholics of Ireland would be consulted by this appointment. I must, however, add that it is possible that some other office may be found for Mr. Therry.

"Upon the whole it appears to me that Mr. Dundas, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Hardy and Mr. Therry are entitled to the most prominent share in your lordship's consideration. I feel strongly the importance, the absolute necessity of giving vigour, energy and efficacy to the revenue laws; and I am not aware that I have selected any names (with the

exception perhaps of that of Mr. Dundas) which will not add character and efficiency to the Boards."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 4. Office for Trade.—"I forgot to mention that I have promised to Lord Howick that I will attend at the House of Lords on Wednesday next to move the second readings of the two Greenwich Bills; for it is possible that Lord Eldon may be disposed to ask some questions respecting

"If you foresee any long debates as to the military questions either on that day or on the Friday, and think it material that I should attend, I shall be glad to have a hint before-hand, that I may make my arrangements for postponing engagements in the country, and for sleeping in town. I have, however, some reason to believe that it is not meant to try any more divisions this session."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, July 4. Dublin Castle.—"Mr. Brooke, a gentleman of considerable fortune in Fermanagh, is likely to be a candidate for that county. He is recommended to the countenance of Government by the Chancellor. However, if Lord Enniskillen is friendly to administration, I presume you would not think it right that we should withdraw our support from Colonel Cole (Lord Enniskillen's brother) who is now one of the members. Pray let me have your sentiments on this matter. As we have had no lists of peers on any of the late divisions,

I know not what part Lord Enniskillen has taken.

"I shall be obliged to you also, if you will inform me whether Carew and Colclough are to be supported for the county of Wexford at the general election. Newport will probably speak to you on the subject. From the tenor of your letters at the commencement of the last Wexford election I certainly conceived that it was your wish that Carew and Colclough should have the interest of Government at the general election, but the friends of Mr. Ram, one of the present members, are circulating a report that you and Fox have given some assurance to him. I am anxious therefore for further information."

Postscript.—"The collector of Maryborough in the Queen's

County has failed. It is a good collectorship, and Parnell has applied for it on behalf of a friend, who, I believe, is qualified for the situation. Will there be any objection to the arrangement? My reason for asking is that Lord Temple has a considerable interest in the county. The name of

Parnell's friend is Doyle."

Private. The Same to The Same.

1806, July 4. Dublin Castle.—"The Lord Lieutenant will transmit to you, either by this, or the next post, a list of all

the candidates for situations at the new Revenue Boards. There are, exclusive of the seats intended for Hutchinson and Marsden, four vacancies; and the persons, whom the Lord Lieutenant has selected for his particular recommendation, are 1st, Mr. Dundas, brother-in-law to Mr. Robert Latouche, with whom I am not acquainted, but he is a person who wishes for an efficient office, and it would give the most serious umbrage to the Latouche family if he were not appointed to one of the Boards; 2nd, Mr. Hardy, who was formerly in the Irish Parliament and about whom Fox feels a great interest. He is, I am informed, well qualified for business, but Sir John Newport will be able to furnish you with more particular intelligence about him; 3rd, Mr. Taylor, who is an old friend of the Ponsonby family, and whom they have most earnestly pressed upon the Duke's attention. He is conversant with business, and would, I have no doubt, make a very efficient commissioner. I must mention. however, that he is an army agent, and the Chancellor told me that he was desirous of retaining his agency with his seat at the Revenue Board. The two employments you will probably think incompatible, in which case the seat at the Board can only be offered to him on condition of his relinquishing his agency; 4th, Mr. Maquay, a respectable Bank Director, who is proposed by Sir John Newport. The Lord Lieutenant will of course explain to you that, with the exception of the promises to Hutchinson and Marsden, no engagement whatever has been made, and that the arrangement is perfectly open to your consideration."

MINUTE OF CABINET.

1806, July 4. Downing Street.

Present:

Lord President.

Lord Privy Seal.

Earl Spencer.

Lord Howick.

Lord Ellenborough.

Mr. Windham.

Lord Henry Petty.

Earl of Moira.

Lord Grenville.

"On consideration of the letters received early this morning from Lord Yarmouth it is humbly submitted to your Majesty that Lord Yarmouth should be instructed to decline all proposals of indemnifying your Majesty or your allies for the cession of Sicily to France, by the acquisition of states or towns in the north of Germany; such acquisition not being consistent with the principles on which your Majesty acts; and that Lord Yarmouth should recall the French Government to the basis on which alone the negotiation was opened, in which Sicily was by express declaration included, and with which its surrender would be wholly inconsistent; and, if he should find this impossible, that he

should then return to England, expressing, in terms perfectly civil, but at the same time quite determined, that he is not at liberty to treat on any other basis than that already established.

"It is also submitted that a reinforcement of six thousand men should immediately be sent to Sicily to ensure the protection of that island." Copy.

CHARLES JAMES FOX to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 4. Stable Yard, 9 o'clock.—"Mr. Fox has been in such a constant state of suffering or weakness that he has been incapable all day of writing or dictating on any subject of importance. He entirely approves of the minute, and will be very much obliged to Lord Grenville if he would write himself or get written a draft conformable to its contents. He hopes Lord Grenville will send it to the King to-night that there may be no delay. Mr. Fox's only doubt is whether so much stress ought to be laid in the draft on the affair of the Hans Towns. The principles professed are perfectly right, but whether it be necessary or even convenient to display them on the present occasion is the question. Might it not suffice to say that they cannot in the present circumstances answer the purpose of an equivalent. Sicily is the main point."

Particulière. Count Stroganoff to The Same.

1806, July 4. London.—"En transmettant ci-jointe à votre Excellence la copie de la lettre particulière que m'a écrite Mr. d'Oubril, et où vous verrez en partie ce qu'il compte obtenir, je ne puis m'empecher de profiter de cette occasion pour prier votre Excellence de considèrer avec attention, si par l'établissement d'une puissance indépendante Dalmatie et les pays circonvoisins, on n'assureroit pas la stabilité de l'empire Ottoman, l'influence Anglo-Russe à Constantinople; si cela ne seroit pas un avantage pour l'Autriche en assurant son flanc, et si ses conséquences, dis-je, ne justifieroient pas l'évacuation de la Sicile, dont la défense ne présente pas à l'Europe et à l'Angleterre en particulier les avantages qu'un pareil état présenteroit; et si, par conséquent, le point d'honneur attaché à la garder ne seroit pas mis hors d'atteinte par les nombreux bienfaits qui en resulteroient pour le Continent? Je vous prie d'observer ici que je ne dénomme aucune contrée spécialement; parceque les questions que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'addresser ce matin, doivent nécessairement être approfondies avant de pouvoir prendre une décision finale; mais je parle simplement en tant que cela regarde le principe, bien persuadé que si l'on en convenoit, cela faciliteroit la négociation à Paris; et j'ose prendre sur moi d'affirmer que

l'opinion de ma cour seroit pour l'établissement d'un pareil état conforme à l'opinion que j' enonce ici. Un autre avantage que je ne saurois passer sous silence, et qui n' est certainement pas de peu de conséquence, seroit celui de ne point faire de paix separée, idée qui, je dois l'avouer, me repugne infiniment, et sera bien désagréable à St. Petersbourg. La conclusion d'un paix unie seroit, je crois, du plus grand avantage dans ce moment. Je n'appuyerai d'avantage sur cette vérité, que est gravée dans le coeur de tout bon Anglois et de tout bon Russe. Je suis persuadé que le Cabinet de Sa Majesté Brittanique pésera ces considérations avec toute l'attention qu' elles méritent, et je m'enfie totalement à ses sentimens loyaux à cet égard."

Private. VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, July 4. Admiralty.—"As the accompanying despatches did not arrive till past two this morning, Fox has not seen them. Will you have the goodness therefore, after reading them, to return them to me that I may send them to him. If you think it would be desirable to have a Cabinet

on them to-day, pray fix the hour.

"The third reading of the Training Bill is fixed for to-day. From the appearance of last night I don't think they are inclined to debate it any more, and it probably may be got through in time for Lord Wellesley's business to come on afterwards. But, even at the risk of this being put off till Monday, which cannot be of much importance, it appears to me to the greatest degree desirable that the Training Bill should proceed, as it might then be taken to the House of Lords to-morrow, and you might get through it in time to prorogue Parliament the week after next, which otherwise you will not be able to do."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, July 4. Downing Street.—"We are to have Lord Melville's motion on Tuesday, and I suppose that day and the two or three following will dispose of the Training Bill, and with it of the debates of this session. It is always difficult to judge as to the intentions of dividing, but of course we ought to have what strength we can for those days." Copy.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 4. Oxford Street.—"The rumour of an existing negociation for peace is now so strong, that I think it is right to call your attention to the state of affairs in India with reference to the probability of peace with France and Holland.

"The questions connected with this subject were under my consideration in the year 1803, when I sent a dispatch to Lord Hobart, which I believe comprehends every material branch of the subject. The dispatch must be in Mr. Windham's office. If peace should be concluded with France without some previous attention to the relative condition of the two states in India, great danger to our interests in that quarter must ensue. Being entirely ignorant of the nature of any proposed basis of peace with France, it is impossible for me, at present, to offer any more particular observation respecting the effect of such an event upon our interests in India. But I think that your attention ought to be directed without delay to an accurate examination of this subject, which, perhaps, involves the most important points to be settled in any peace with France and Holland at the present moment."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 5. Pall Mall.—"I am plagued to death by applications from Dumourier, claiming that his last year's salary should be paid twice over in consideration of the expenses of his journey upon the Continent, which he describes as undertaken solely with a view to the common cause, and at the desire of the Government. His allowance per year (most improvidently granted him in my opinion) amounts to 500l. That it was paid from this Office, I have no authority but his own word, as there is no document upon the subject among the papers here; any more than there is for his having been sent to the Continent by the desire of Both those facts may be true, however, without any trace appearing here, as little has been left in the Office that could by possibility be carried away. The 500l. for the expenses of his journey must, perhaps, now be allowed him; though it might be right that the question should first be asked, which I thought had been done, whether Lord Castlereagh or any of the late Government owns his having been sent to the Continent by their desire. The more material question is, what should be done with him, and how, if he is to stay here, or have his allowance continued, the allowance ought to be paid. I shall certainly be very glad to get rid of him as a charge upon the secret service of this Office."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, July 5. Windsor Castle.—"The King cannot but highly approve the minute of Cabinet which he has received from Lord Grenville, and the firmness with which his Ministers are disposed to act upon an occasion when it must be evident to them that the French Government has lost sight of every

principle of honor and good faith upon which nations can alone treat with any degree of security. His Majesty is sorry that Mr. Fox's health still continues such as to offer an excuse for not transmitting the papers in question."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, July 6. Dropmore.—"The principal difficulty as to the business to which the enclosed papers relate is as to

the mode of carrying the work into execution.

"The more I look into this subject of expenditure, the more reason I see for believing that this new invention of issuing money to be expended by the Quarter-Master-General, made under the pretence of field works, is perfectly against law, a fraud on Parliament, and a contrivance to evade all the established checks of every description which the constitution of our Government has provided against improvident expenditure.

"My resolution is therefore taken (and nothing but the being convinced that the grounds of my opinion are wrong, can shake it) never again to put my name to any warrant for

the issue of one farthing more in that form.

"If there be any utility in making a pier at the place here stated, which is, I believe, a point much contested, such an expenditure is exactly of the description of those which ought to be stated to Parliament, it's advantage discussed there,

and the money voted upon estimate accordingly.

"With respect to Dumourier, I think the reference you propose to Lord Castlereagh is quite right. I believe he may be made use of. He has undoubted military talents; and the papers I have lately seen of his about Sicily and Sardinia accord so much with my own ideas, that I naturally think them able and useful. If peace should come, it might then indeed be a question what further use could be made of him." Copy.

EARL TEMPLE to LORD GRENVILLE.

[1806, July 6. Pall Mall.]—"The very unpleasant result of Friday night, disastrous to Lord Wellesley and most disagreeable personally to me, has obliged me to write a letter of which the enclosed is a copy; it will explain itself. I can only repeat to you what the letter says that, although it is impossible for me after the treatment I have received to appear as leader in the cause, nothing shall induce me to withdraw from it; and I desire to be understood as ready to act under any leader, and to assist as far as I can any measure Lord Wellesley's friends may advise him to take. I should like to see you in the course of the day upon this business, and, if you will appoint an hour, I will contrive to get to you in my carriage."

Enclosure.

Private. Earl Temple to Marquis Wellesley.

1806, July 5. Whitehall.—"I trust Sir Arthur Wellesley has explained to you the cause of our failure last night. well know that I went down to the House with the fullest concurrence of all your friends, who, after mature deliberation, had determined that, at all hazards, a decision upon the Oude question should be obtained last night. Feeling most warmly anxious that you should be relieved from the unpleasant state of suspense in which Mr. Paull had studiously endeavoured to keep you, and being most fully and deeply impressed with the injustice of the imputations cast upon you, and the charges brought against you, nothing gave me more heartfelt pleasure than being the instrument, assisted by your friends, of gratifying my own feelings by vindicating your character. cannot conceal from you the mortification I now experience in finding myself deserted by one class of your friends, and in the manner the most injurious and unpleasant to me. If Mr. Percival, or those with whom he is connected, had showed the least unwillingness in the course of our communications to adopt any of the measures we had proposed for bringing the charge to an issue, I trust you will believe that no foolish pride on my part, or wish to put myself forward, would for one moment have stood in the way; and I would with pleasure have acceded to any mode which could have been suggested for uniting persons who think equally warmly on your subject, however they may differ upon other points, in one common effort. I, however, fully understood at the various meetings which were held, that no difference of opinion existed as to the mode to be adopted last night, and that it was fully understood and agreed to on all hands that the motion should be made by me. You may easily conceive my astonishment when Mr. Percival, without one word of communication with me, or any of your friends connected with me, took upon himself to give the whole business a new shape, and to render the carrying into execution impossible that which he as well as his friends had promised to support me in doing at all hazards. I certainly had no right to expect that any feelings for me should operate upon Mr. Percival or his friends, but I cannot help thinking that regard for you might have induced them to pause before they disavowed me, who, in putting myself forward, had but one object in view, that of forwarding your wishes; and in so doing had acted with their fullest concurrence and promises of support. I found it impossible upon the ground on which Mr. Percival had placed it, to bring the House to any final decision upon the question, it was my wish at least to bring the business to a conclusion for that night in the manner which would best have enabled us to have resumed the consideration of the

question whenever it might be thought prudent to do so; and which would have left it in the manner the least grating to my own personal feelings. I therefore proposed that the House should go into the committee pro forma only, pledging myself that no decision should be called for until the papers Mr. Paull had stated were necessary, had been laid upon the table and considered. Mr. Wellesley Pole then rose and begged of me, as a personal favour, to withdraw the motion entirely; and Mr. Percival again got up and professed his intention of opposing the Speaker's leaving the chair, even under my explanation. I found myself obliged therefore (though the House would have supported me in going into the committee upon my explanation) to withdraw the whole motion at your brother's request; and thus I find myself, in the manner the most unpleasant to me, held out to the public as having wished to force on the decision of the question precipitately; and that in the most invidious way, by taking it out of the hands of the person originally in possession of the question. The impression is further made that I have given way only to the request of your friends and your brother, and eonsequently that I had brought it in against their wishes, or at least without communication with them. In this very unpleasant situation the feeling the most galling to my mind is that your cause has been thrown away; and an opportunity lost which I fear eannot be recovered this session. I can no longer put myself forward as the leader upon a question where those who think with me in principle will not act with me in detail. I trust you will believe the warmth and anxiety with which I assure you that, if your friends shall think it right to bring the question forward again in the course of the session, my best exertions are at your command. But I feel I cannot again put myself in the situation to be again disavowed and deserted; neither can I disguise from myself that, after the impression which last night must have made, your cause must suffer if I was again to intrude myself upon the House, as the leader in a question upon which I certainly now, from want of support, have the credit of consulting the feelings of my own personal vanity only, and not your interests. Having said thus much I again repeat my readincss in the fullest manner to co-operate with your friends under any leader and in any measure it may be thought fit to pursue; but I shall feel it a matter of the deepest regret that I am deprived of the gratification I had promised myself of appearing the foremost of those entrusted with the proud charge of rescuing your character from the infamous attempts which have been made to put it down."

The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 7. Phœnix Park.—"I have the honour of your lordship's letter of the 3rd instant, and hasten to assure you

that if Lord Frederick Montagu should decline offering himself for the county of Huntingdon at the next general election, what little interest I may possess in that county will be most

cordially exerted in favour of Lord Proby.

"I perceive by the newspapers that Lord Henry Petty has introduced the subject of vaccine inoculation to the notice of Parliament, and I cannot resist the opportunity it affords me of expressing to your lordship how anxious I feel that Dr. Jenner's merits and labours should obtain that justice from Government which has been withheld from him. His long and unwearied exertions, his patient and laborious investigation, the great expenses he has incurred, and is still annually incurring, justly entitle him to a liberal remuneration from the public; and sure I am that the sum formerly voted to him by

Parliament can in no degree be so considered.

"I trust the enquiry will be extended to Ireland. I have taken some pains since I have been here in acquiring information as to the progress vaccination has made in this country, and as to the increase or decrease of the ravages of the small-pox, since the vaccine has been introduced; and the more knowledge I obtain on this subject, the more I am persuaded that we shall never succeed in the great object we have in view, namely, the extermination of the small-pox, without legislative interference; and, however, we may be shocked at the idea of compulsory measures, yet sure I am that it can never be inconsistent with the principles of a wise government to stop, or at least to confine the fatal progress of a pestilential and destructive disorder, by which thousands are annually swept from the population of the country.

"The propriety and probable efficacy of Parliamentary interference were last year frequently discussed at the Jennerian Society, and without trespassing on your lordship's time by any detail of argument, I beg leave to refer you to

Dr. Jenner, should you have leisure to see him.

"I rejoice to learn that Fox is so much better."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, July 7. Phænix Park.—"It grieves me much to find by your letter of the 3rd instant that you entertain so gloomy a view of Fox's state of health. The apprehension of such a calamitous deduction from the strength of Government does indeed render an efficient successor to King a matter of primary importance, and I wish I could suggest any such person for your consideration. Though I think Marsden would perform the official part of the duty of a Secretary to the Treasury to your satisfaction, and with the most scrupulous fidelity, yet I must confidentially acknowledge to you, that I doubt whether he has that sort of activity and address which would secure his success in his intercourse and communication with

members of Parliament. If, however, no person, who may be better qualified in point of parliamentary experience should occur to you, I will sound him on the subject, whenever you authorize me to do so. At the same time I conceive he would be reluctant to embark in so precarious a situation without being sure of some permanent provision in the event of any adverse circumstances.

"The two appointments to which you allude, give me, as you will imagine, much pleasure. They will both most essentially conduce to the benefit of the empire. The only circumstance which detracts from the satisfaction I derive from them, is the prospect of so long a separation from Lord

Minto.

"I thank you much for your solicitude about my health, which is in its ordinary state, never, as you know, very robust."

Postscript.—"I have no other reason for thinking that Carew ought to be supported for the county of Wexford than that some foundation was given him at the late election for believing that he might have the interest of Government at the general election. Newport, to whom you had better speak on the subject, seems to be very sanguine about Carew's success."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, July 7. Admiralty.—"I send you some despatches from Admiral Cockrane, which are of considerable importance. I cannot make out what the French line of battleship is that arrived at Martinique; but I think it must either be the Regulus, which went some time ago down the coast of Africa,

or one of Jerome's squadron.

"The details of Admiral Cochrane's agreement with Miranda are contained in a letter to Lord Spencer which of course he will circulate. His conduct seems to me hardly less exceptionable than that of Sir Home Popham. I think we should have a Cabinet on this subject to-morrow, as well as upon the answer brought by Basilico, who landed at Dover yesterday evening. I have not heard whether he is arrived in town. Be so good as to send back Cochrane's letters as they must go to the King."

Marquis of Buckingham to The Same.

1806, July 8. Stowe.—"Under the uncertainty of your Irish election, I have arranged with my burgesses that the bailiff shall be absent till Monday next, and that the election will then be proclaimed for the ensuing Monday the 10th. This will give the most ample time for all the possible delay at Enniskillen.

"I have not an idea that Russia will disavow their treaty, and, if so, I shall be curious to see the line which you will

take on this dissolution of the Germanic constitution, in breach not only of an establishment in which all Europe is interested, but specifically of the treaty of Westphalia. The subject would lead very much beyond the limits of a letter, but I feel very much inclined to think that we ought to commit

ourselves on this question.

"I am sorry to find from Tom that there is reason to think, after all Sir Sidney's vaunts, that Gaeta has fallen. My private letter from Talbot of the 27th May says that he is just returned from it, in his *Thunderer* 74, and thinks that it will hold out; but his account of the no-government of Sicily is very alarming. He has had bad luck, having—with the *Ajax* under his orders—missed by a very few minutes taking two Spanish 74's off Carthagena. He laid a trap for them, tempted them out of harbour, but the fog cleared away, and they got back, having escaped being cut off by about

seven or eight minutes.

"I hope and trust that you never will have reason to accuse me of pressing upon you any protégé for a situation for which he is unfit; but I own that I never was so much surprised at your doubts of Mansell's fitness for such a situation, in which he is only one of two commoners, both of whom must concur in every act, and for which his residence in France for three years give him great advantages. But, independent of this, I, who have known him intimately and confidentially for so many years, must say that I think his abilities much above the common rate, and that his attachment, devotion and services to me require from me every return in my power. It would therefore mortify me very much if I failed in persuading vou to consent to this arrangement. I have signed in Mr. Browne's favour the appointment of Deputy Teller, which could not be delayed, and I will fairly own that I have done so, since I received your letter, in the confidence that you would not so far disappoint my wishes as to decline this arrangement. I have had the caution of directing Browne to say that he is for the present to keep both offices; but I earnestly beg that you will relieve me, and that you will believe that Mansell is not unfit for an office such as, from a long conversation with Browne this morning, I find this to be; in which, if a commoner were inclined to misconduct himself, the cheeks of the other would make it impracticable."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, July 8. Downing Street.—"The arrangement which you suggest relative to the choice of the new Commissioners of the Revenue of Ireland appears to me, as far as I am able to judge of it, to be perfectly unexceptionable, and will, I trust, do credit to us all. It is unquestionably the wish of the Government here that Longfield should be dismissed. Then supposing Marsden and Hutchinson to be named, and

Sir J. Newport's recommendation of Macquay acceded to, which I think reasonable, there will remain, as I understand, three vacancies. Of these I should think Dundas and Therry should be two; the former from the motives you suggest, the second, because I think the importance of putting a Roman Catholic of good character and qualifications into the Revenue Board is extremely great; nor does it appear to me that the same objects would be nearly as well accomplished by finding for Mr. Therry any distinct office that might happen to be vacant, though of equal value.

"Then as between Hardy and Taylor, I am really unable to decide; the relinguishment of the army agency would I think be indispensable. But if this be done I know no reason of preference between them, and should take, if it depended on me, whichever of the two was likely to be the most

efficient officer.

"Whatever your decision may be, will, I am sure, be quite satisfactory to me, and advantageous to the public service." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL TEMPLE.

1806, July 8. Downing Street.—"I was unable to see you yesterday, and I am not sure that I shall be more able to-day. I am sorry for the resolution you have taken though I cannot blame it, but the effect is that Wellesley suffers for the absurdity of others, whom he cannot control. We must now look to do what we can for him next session."

Postscript.—" Elliot writes me that an office of some value in the Queen's County is vacant, and applied for by Parnell.

I suppose you wish it to be so given." Copy.

Private. The Same to W. Elliot.

1806, July 8. Downing Street.—"I received by to-day's post the Duke of Bedford's letter respecting the Revenue Commissioners, and I have in answer strongly urged that Therry should be included in the choice; not that I have any personal knowledge of him, or indeed ever heard of his name before; but because I conclude he is thought the fittest Roman Catholic for that situation, and I think it of infinite importance that there should be among the new Commissioners one of that persuasion.

"Longfield ought clearly to be dismissed. Can you do nothing else for Pennefather? It would be a pity to lose that seat, though I should not like that, on that account, an improper nomination should be made to the Revenue Board; and I have therefore said nothing of him to the Lord

Lieutenant.

"Fox is, I fear, not materially better, though from one day to another he is occasionally more or less easy. I confess I have hardly any hope of final recovery. What a loss he will be?" Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 9. Whitehall.—"It may be material that you should read the two enclosed papers when you can spare two minutes. The observations are by Sir Joseph Banks, and certainly are material to be adverted to. On the whole, unless there were more time than you possess to consider the subject, I think it may [be] best not to bring in the bill even for the purpose of printing and circulating.

"I have received a very intelligent letter from the house of Baring, Mair, and Company on the great importance of the depôts proposed to be established at Gibraltar and Malta: and I yesterday wrote a long letter on that subject to Mr. Windham, and requested him to forward copies of it, and to

enforce the questions stated on it.

"There is more difficulty than I was aware of in the St. Domingo consideration, and it will be necessary to have a conference with your lordship on it. The importance is great; but it is a preliminary question whether you are prepared to acknowledge the independence of the new black Government. I am collecting the materials, and also the

opinions of the law officers.

"The question as to the small Prussian vessels seems to have been submitted to you in haste and without sufficient explanations of the grounds. In fact the ostensible grounds are not producible; and if therefore you wish to let the petitioners receive a negative, it is a minor consideration and they must bear it as well as they can. The truth is, that these vessels of 60 tons and under were used almost solely for our Dutch trade, were the property of a few industrious men, half English and half Dutch, and traded only between London and Catwyk, Rotterdam, and other Dutch towns. And on my remarking to the King's Advocate that we were pursuing the example of a farmer who killed his milch cow because his neighbour's bull had committed some vexatious trespasses, Sir J. Nicholl (though sufficiently tenacious on these subjects) most readily concurred in the minute which we sketched together, to be mentioned to you.

"The Chancellor is desirous to adjourn the House at four o'clock to-day; I will go there before that hour. And I have taken my measures to attend the debate on Friday, which I suppose will be long, and to stay that night in town.

"I understand from Mr. Cowper that Government appeared with great superiority in the Oriental discussion yesterday at the House of Lords. I had desired Mr. Vansittart to send a servant for me if there were any prospect of a division."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, July 9. Downing Street.—"I take it Lord Enniskillen is friendly to Government. Lord Spencer had, I believe, some explanation with him to that effect.

"I certainly think (as far as I understand the case) that it is best to support Colclough and Carew, and I have accordingly acquainted Colonel Ram that I can enter into no engagements with him on the subject. It is material if you see him that you should repeat this to him distinctly, as he seems desirous of pledging Government to him.

"Lord Temple's wishes go entirely with Parnell in the

Queen's County.

"Newport goes to Ireland on Saturday. I am sorry to say he will bring no decision as between the Ponsonbys and Beresfords; Lord Ponsonby baving been too ill to talk of business, and being even, as I understand, in considerable danger.

"Fox is reported to be materially better to-day, but I

own I am not sanguine about it." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, July 9. Dublin Castle.—"Mr. Hill (brother to Sir George Hill) who was collector at the port of Londonderry, died a few days ago, and Sir George Hill earnestly solicits the collectorship for another brother. He is a part of the Beresford connection, and states strongly the favourable sentiments of that family towards the present Government. Any arrangement which it may be found practicable to make with the Beresfords, cannot, I am afraid, include the county of Londonderry, as the Ponsonbys seem decided to try for one, if not both members; and the Beresfords will of course support Lord George, and *possibly* Colonel Stewart (Lord Castlereagh's brother) to whom I know Sir George Hill's interest is pledged. The collectorship, nevertheless, though it must give a portion of influence in the county, is properly to be regarded as a part of the patronage attached to the city, which Sir George Hill represents; and, if you come to any understanding with the Beresfords, and Sir George Hill promises his cordial and steady support to Government in Parliament, it may be advisable to comply with his request in respect to this office. If no compromise can be formed relative to the county of Derry, it would perhaps be better to explain to the Beresfords that the Ponsonbys must have the aid of Government in that particular quarter; but, for the reason I have mentioned, I do not think the Ponsonbys ought to claim the collectorship as a part of that aid.

"When you shall have had a communication with Lord Ponsonby, and shall have settled what course we are to pursue between his family and the Beresfords, I shall thank you to let me have such a letter on the subject as I may show

to the Chancellor."

Postscript.—" The collectorship of Derry is one of the best collectorships."

LORD GRENVILLE tO LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, July 10.—"Lord Henry Petty has told me to-day that Rose, Long, and Huskisson, have all represented to him that they eoneeive that when the eommission for the sale of the land tax of eeclesiastical eorporations was established, it was under a clear understanding that the commissioners were not

to receive any remuneration for that service.

"As this must of necessity produce in the House of Commons a disagreeable discussion in proposing the allowance which was intended, and indeed given notice of by Lord Henry, and as our committee of supply will not close till Friday, I desired that Lord Henry would defer bringing the subject forward till that day in order that we might have the opportunity to-morrow of seeing you, and conversing with you as to what is best to be done on this unexpected difficulty.

"I shall be at home the whole morning, and as it is a Board day, Lord Henry will probably be within reach any hour you

ean eall." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 10. Great George Street.—"I am sorry and surprised to learn that any opposition is intended to the proposed remuneration; and more especially as it rested on the most invidious ground that eould be taken. solemnly declare, and I am sure Lord Glenbervie will confirm it, that nothing whatever passed when the commission was appointed, that extended or eould be construed to extend to an understanding that the commissioners were not to receive remuneration for the service to be performed. I conceive that in point of faet it was not understood or foreseen that the service would be such as to lead to a question of remuneration. Mr. Pitt, the Speaker, and others of the eommission thought, and we all, that the duties to be performed would be simple and of short duration. In the event they became difficult and most complicated; so troublesome in their details that they soon fell, indeed almost immediately, to Lord Glenbervie and to me, and to us exclusively from after the second meeting to the present day. We performed them by many, many journeys to London, by much daily eorrespondence, to the satisfaction of all the interests coneerned, with a considerable gain to the public. Many new aets were passed to explain and extend our powers; we superintended and executed above 2,300 conveyances. I eannot say more on the subject: and I fear that I eannot throw more light on it when I meet your Lordship and Lord Henry Petty. But I will come to town again to-morrow morning, and will wait on you at eleven o'elock. I feel hurt at the predicament in which this eircumstance places me; and I also feel beyond measure vexed that it should give this trouble to you and to Lord Henry Petty."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, July 10. Dublin Castle.—"The fines alluded to in Lord Abercorn's letter were suspended by Lord Hardwicke, and it is the Lord Lieutenant's intention to remit them. It occurred to me, however, that the most eligible course would be to let the remission be founded on the recommendation of the judge, which I have no doubt of receiving on his return from England; and I found the Chancellor in the same sentiment. The delay will not be more than two or three weeks, and none of the parties can sustain any injury from it. The putting the sheriffs under day-fees to the serjeant-at-arms was an error, which has been long since rectified."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, July 11. Whitehall.—"I wrote to Lord Glenbervie, and have received his answer, expressing much disappointment, but acquiescing in our decision, as being the properest that the circumstances would allow. Possibly if Lord Henry, previously to giving the notice proposed (and much depends on the manner in which he may give it), would have spoken to Mr. Rose and Company they would still acquiesce in the original proposition.

If you should think that experiment desirable you will

perhaps have the goodness to suggest it.

"I seem to exist at present on the Dulwich road; but I hope after the prorogation to reduce these excursions to two, and sometimes to one, per week."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, July 11. Downing Street.—"I am extremely obliged

to you for your kind answer about Lord Proby.

"I have myself the highest opinion of Dr. Jenner's merits. The business seems now to be in the best course for investigation; and certainly, when it comes before Parliament next year, my disposition will be to favour him as much as

with propriety can be done.

"I fear it will hardly be possible to carry vaccination farther by any positive law than to introduce it compulsorily into all public institutions. But this will of course be matter of future discussion. It would I think be right that, as the matter is now referred to the college of physicians, you should direct that any information which can be procured on the subject in Ireland should be transmitted to them.

"I fear Fox, who had been considerably better, is rather

gone back within these two last days." Copy.

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, July 13. Phænix Park.—"In consequence of your lordship's observations on the several names transmitted for your consideration, as fit persons to be appointed

Commissioners of the new Boards of Revenue, I beg leave to suggest the names of Mr. W. Hutchinson, Mr. Marsden, Mr. Macquay, Mr. Therry, Mr. Dundas and Mr. Taylor to fill the six vacancies.

"I regret that we have not been able to include Mr. Hardy in the present arrangement, but he must be considered on the first vacancy which may occur, or for the first office which may fall to which he may be appointed; I must request your lordship also to bear in mind that I am anxious to serve Mr. Lambert, for the reasons stated in my last letter on this

subject."

Private. July 14th.—"Since I wrote to you this morning I have had some conversation with Mr. Elliot on the subject of the Ponsonby and Beresford interests in the county of Derry, and we concur in opinion that it would be extremely desirable that your lordship should come to an understanding with Lord Ponsonby with as little delay as possible. The collectorship of Derry, now vacant by the death of Mr. Hill, is strongly solicited by Sir George Hill for another brother, and it can scarcely be worth while to risk losing Lord Waterford's support, or that of his near connection Sir George Hill, for an object which may be of comparative trifling value to Lord Ponsonby; but your lordship will be the best judge whether so powerful an interest as that of Lord Waterford ought not to be conciliated by all the reasonable means within our power; and if so, whether some sacrifices might not be asked of Lord Ponsonby's family, as Lord Ponsonby himself is still too ill to converse upon business. Your lordship may possibly take an opportunity of seeing John Ponsonby who is now in London, and if his sentiments and his father's are communicated to the Chancellor, we shall be relieved from much embarrassment here, naturally arising from the uncertain knowledge of their wishes and intentions."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, July 13. Downing Street.—"Newport will probably be with you as soon as this letter. I saw Lord Ponsonby with him and conversed with him as to the idea of a compromise for the county of Derry, to which he did not express himself decidedly adverse, though he made a reserve of possible engagements that his friends may already have entered into, and by which, if taken, he must abide. He also threw out that Lord Waterford was probably engaged to Stewart. How this is I shall know to-morrow or Tuesday, when I shall see Lord Waterford.

"In the mean time Newport is authorized by Lord Ponsonby to converse with you and the Chancellor on the subject, and I cannot help still hoping that the matter may be arranged.

"The collectorship of Derry must of course now remain in suspense till we have seen what we can do in the way of

compromise. Newport has suggested the idea of a division corresponding to that of the Boards. This, though it would not fully satisfy either party, may perhaps ultimately be the best solution.

"I enclose a letter from Bisset, which I will thank you to return me; letting me know what I shall say to him. I hope the Duke understands that I by no means wish him to embarrass himself on the subject; but whenever it can be done with convenience, I shall be glad to see Bisset in possession of any reasonable object."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 14. Admiralty.—"I enclose a letter which I have just received from Captain Stopford, which confirms all the representations I have before received of the state of the borough of Ipswich. I had promised Sir William Middleton to speak to you on this subject, and to let him know your determination. For myself I can only repeat what I have uniformly said to Sir William Middleton, that I should perfer him to any other candidate, if he could unite in his favour that interest to which, in conjunction with their own strength, Government must look to carry the borough. He is sanguine in his belief that if Government declare strongly for him, the portmen will not persist in their objection, and that Sir A. Hammond will withdraw. All my information goes the other way, and induces me to believe that the only effect of his standing will be to throw a great part of the interest, which we might otherwise command, into the opposite scale, and to insure the re-election of Sir A. Hammond. It is much to be desired that you should consider and determine upon this case as soon as possible, for during this suspense Sir A. Hammond is canvassing actively, and strengthening his interest every day.

"All my naval authorities, except Markham, who is not yet returned from the country, represent Sardinia as a good station, much superior in that respect to Corsica, but not so valuable as Sicily or Minorca. The country itself is in a great degree uncultivated, and the inhabitants of the interior literally cannibals. I cannot help thinking that Sardinia with Majorca, Minorca and Ivica, would be a much more valuable establishment for the King of Naples than Dalmatia; and that if we could get something in that quarter both as a security for Austria and Turkey, and a satisfaction to Russia, by the cession of some of our conquests, they would be well bestowed to such a purpose. The advantage of making a peace on which we should have to state that we had given up nothing, would not in my opinion be greater than that of obtaining real securities in the Mediterranean, and showing a disposition to sacrifice something of our own for the advantage of our allies, and for the general security

of Europe."

Enclosure.

CAPTAIN CUNNINGHAME to the EARL OF CARYSFORD.

1806, July.—"I understand Lord Grenville proposes sending Mr. King as a candidate for Ipswich, provided Sir William Middleton does not get the support of the portmen. This he certainly will not do; and as a commissioner of the navy has great weight there, I could be useful to him at the same time I am to Captain Stopford. I write from Harwich where there are many Ipswich freemen. We are not eanvassing, only feeling our way."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 14. Eden Farm.—"The King's Advocate promises to meet me this morning at Whitehall on the Swedish business, and on some other questions of difficulty. On perusing Mr. Pierrepont's despatch and enclosures, I much fear that the season for obtaining the object in dispute will be lost. It would not be difficult perhaps for the council to address to the Secretary of State that sort of remonstrance, 'and vague assurance of reciprocity,' which would induce his Swedish Majesty to allow our sending manufactures into the Baltic ports which are blockaded, in return for naval stores: but any arrangement between the courts will be a work of six weeks or two months, and then the equinoctial gales will begin.

"Some informers have discovered that by an obsolete clause in the 1st Jas. I ch. 22, it is unlawful for any person to buy and sell oak bark unless he shall be a tanner by trade: and suits are commenced for the penalties, and many more are apprehended. It is now too late in the session to move a repeal of the clause, which evidently ought to be repealed: but I incline to think that we ought to bring in the bill as a notice, and to suspend next session such suits as may be

commenced after that notice.

"I suppose that the second reading of the Defence Bill will be taken on Wednesday, as it may be praeticable for the print to be on the table that day; and I will not fail to attend, but I heartily hope that the committee (in which the debate may probably be taken) may be on Friday, and not on Thursday. However, my little private arrangements shall be cheerfully sacrificed, if it be necessary."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, July 14. Downing Street.—"I have seen Lord Waterford, whose conversation is, on the whole, very satisfactory. He pressed very strongly for an assurance of his brother's succeeding to Raphoe, and of Sir G. Hill's obtaining his object at Derry; but on both points I gave him only general assurances of favourable dispositions,

referring him to your grace for a more particular answer. He leaves town for Curraghmore the end of this week." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, July 14. Dublin Castle.—"In consequence of your suggestion, the Lord Lieutenant has authorized me to propose a seat at one of the Revenue Boards to Mr. Thery. As the Ponsonbys feel the utmost interest about Taylor, and as he consents to resign his agency to his nephew, his name is to remain on the list of the candidates, who are to be recom-Hardy, however, must have some provision mended. whenever an opportunity occurs, Fox being very anxious about him. I do not think Pennefather could have been much depended on for attendance. He now offers the seat of Cashel for an office of 500l. per annum to his eldest son, and a pension out of the secret service fund of 100l. per annum to each of his two younger sons; but the Duke's patronage is so limited, and the claims upon him are so numerous and so urgent, that I doubt whether he will be able to close even with these reduced terms. If I should be able to procure for you the refusal of one or two seats, for their full value in money, could you name purchasers?

"I am sorry to find Lord Ponsonby is so intent upon having the collectorship of Derry, as I conceive it likely to be essential to a successful negotiation with the Beresfords that it should be given to Sir George Hill's brother. It would be very desirable, if you should not have been able to use Newport's intervention, that you should see Lord Ponsonby's eldest son, who is in London, as you might perhaps be able to come to a distinct explanation with him on the Parliamentary views of his family. Whenever you shall have decided what line we are to pursue in respect to these two great interests, I must again entreat you to let me have such a letter on the subject

as I may show to the Chancellor."

Postscript.—"You are very kind in mentioning Fox's health in your letters; I most heartily wish you could give us some hope of his recovery."

MINUTE OF CABINET.

1806, July 15. Downing Street.—

Present:

Lord President.
Lord Privy Seal.
Earl Spencer.
Earl of Moira.
Lord Henry Petty.

Lord Viscount Howick. Mr. Windham. Mr. Grenville. Lord Grenville.

"It is humbly submitted to your Majesty, on a eonsideration of Lord Yarmouth's late dispatches, and of the

communications from Count Stroganoff.

"That Lord Yarmouth should be instructed to deelare that your Majesty feels insuperable objections to any proposal for abandoning Sieily, unless with the free and full consent of his Sicilian Majesty, and in consequence of such an arrangement as should provide for that sovereign a compensation really satisfactory, both in point of value and security. That the proposals now offered with that view are particularly objectionable. First, because Albania, which forms so considerable a part of the proposed compensation, is a part of the Turkish empire, the integrity of which is a principal object of the policy both of Great Britain and Russia. Secondly, because there appears no hope of forming such a power in that quarter as could, either in extent of territory or revenue, be able to maintain its independance unless France shall consent to annex to it large additions in Istria and in the Venetian States, including, if possible, Venice itself.

"That Lord Yarmouth should therefore discuss these points with M. Talleyrand in order to ascertain whether there be any possibility of obtaining such an offer as might be bona fide sufficient to induce his Sicilian Majesty to accept the proposal. But that he should declare to M. d'Oubril that this line is adopted only in consequence of that minister's having so strongly expressed his wish that your Majesty's Government might rather temporize with France, than break off the

negotiation abruptly.

That Lord Yarmouth should farther explain to M. d'Oubril the great importance which your Majesty attaches to the continuing to combine all measures both of peace and war with Russia; and the little expectation entertained here that Russia could, by any course of separate peace, obtain any effectual security for the remaining interests of Europe, particularly for Sweden, Germany, Swisserland or the Porte; much less that she could in that way establish a barrier against the French in Dalmatia or Albania. And that it is, in your Majesty's opinion, on every account highly important under these circumstances, that no expectation should be held out to the enemy of success in any endeavour to make a separate peace with either of the allies.

"It is further humbly submitted that instructions should be sent to Rear-Admiral Cockranc, highly disapproving of his having taken upon himself, without instructions, to assist General Miranda by the employment of the ships under his command, and even to conclude a treaty with him; and that he should be directed to take no steps by which his Majesty can be further committed in that enterprize, but to adhere as strictly as possible to the directions which he has already

received on that subject." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, July 15. Dublin Castle.—" I trouble you with a line merely to apprize you that Newport suggests in a letter, which I have just received from him, that it may be expedient, under the intended arrangement of the revenue, to divide the collectorship of Derry into two offices, one for the collection of

the customs, and the other for that of the excise."

Postscript.—" Colonel Ponsonby has declared himself a candidate for the county of Derry, and is very anxious to procure the support of Dupré Pascher which, perhaps, you may be able to obtain for him through Alexander, the chairman of the committee of supply. I find from John Claudius Beresford, whom I have just seen, that if the collectorship is given to any one hostile to the Beresford interest in the county, it will probably be the means of breaking off the negotiation with Lord Waterford. Sir George Hill's brother would, I am afraid, be not well qualified for the situation, as I learn he was a few years ago collector of Coleraine, and was not by any means an efficient officer. appointment, however, appear objectionable, the Beresfords would of course propose some other friend. Colonel Ponsonby solicited it for a friend of his family, but I told him that the Duke could enter into no engagement respecting it, and that you had been written to upon the subject. If the office should be divided, I think the Beresfords might possibly look to the recommendation to both collectorships, to secure Sir George Hill's interest in the city, but this is merely conjecture."

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, July 16. Downing Street.—"I shall be happy to see you here at two, if that will suit you. I enclose a letter I have just received from Lord Clinton. I am sure you will feel that Mr. Tucker's activity ought to be a little combined with the rest of the Government, and particularly with myself, who am daily brought into difficulties by it. I had long since received and accepted assurances of support from Lord Clinton, and cannot possibly concur in any attempts injurious to him. But it is not only in this particular case that this plan of separate electioneering is destructive of the influence and credit of Government." Copy.

THE SAME to the EARL OF YARMOUTH.

1806, July 17. Downing Street.—"I believe Mr. Fox has already had the goodness to express to you the great interest which I take in Mr. Goddard, from whom, by your kindness, I received a few days ago a letter. Anything you can do to alleviate, and still more if it were possible, to terminate his captivity would be in the highest degree gratifying to me; and I should feel truly obliged to you for any exertions in his favour. I take the liberty to enclose under this cover a few lines for him." Copy.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, July 18. Downing Street.—" I think you have decided quite right both as to Therry and Taylor, and nothing now remains but to carry the appointment into effect, which must, I apprehend, be done in Ireland. I saw Lord Waterford a few days since, and had from him (as I had before had from Claudius Beresford) a very satisfactory explanation of his favourable disposition towards the Government. Every exertion should certainly be made to cultivate this disposition, and I strongly incline to think that the collectorship of Derry should be given to Sir G. Hill, though certainly with all possible management towards Lord Ponsonby. Newport has, at my desire, been authorised to converse fully with the Chancellor and Elliot as to the different points in question respecting Lord Ponsonby's Parliamentary interest.

"I am sorry to say that within these few days Fox seems worse again, and I fear there is very little hope indeed of any permanent or material amendment; though the disorder may still, as I am told, continue in its present state for some

time longer." Copy.

THE SAME to W. ELLIOT.

1806, July 18. Downing Street.—"I am very glad the Lord Lieutenant has determined on including Therry in the list of Revenuc Commissioners, as I am convinced that measure will be very advantageous. I make no doubt the decision between Taylor and Hardy is equally right, and it was particularly necessary to gratify the Ponsonbys in that instance, as I think we must ultimately decide the Derry collectorship n favour of Sir George Hill. On this point you will, however, have the fullest opportunity of conversing with Newport.

"We have no present thoughts of dissolving this year. Pennefather's business may therefore be kept open till I see you. There is one part of what you mention respecting him on which it is very necessary that I should explain to you distinctly what my own feelings and line of conduct are.

"What are your ideas as to coming over?

"We shall have but a short vacation, and that entirely employed in preparing our bills and measures, so as really to

enter on the business of the session in October next.

"It is much to be desired that whatever is to be done as to Ireland should be ready to be brought in altogether immediately after Christmas; for the mass of Irish business which came on quite at the end of this session, though under our peculiar circumstances (coming in at the time we did) it could not be prevented, yet certainly was not creditable to us.

"No opportunity should be lost in securing such seats as may be offered to you at the common price. There will be friends enough very desirous of purchasing. Fox is, I am

sorry to say, worse within these few days." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 18. Office for Trade.—The Attorney General and the King's Advocate attended here to-day and settled, after due discussion, the enclosed form of an Order in Council for opening the trade with St. Domingo. It seems to be guarded and unobjectionable so far as I can form a judgment relative to all its bearings; and if I should not hear from you to the contrary, Sir Stephen Cotterell shall carry it to the council at the Queen's House on Monday next.

"I forgot to mention that, if his Majesty should incline to be personally present at the prorogation, it will be my duty to attend him as Deputy Vice-Chamberlain: and in that case I should desire your lordship to submit the convenience to his Majesty of entering at the new stair-case, and by the short passage to the robing room. But I presume that his Majesty has no intention to go, though I incline to think that he may expect to have his pleasure taken upon the point.

'We save the question as to the point of sending naval or military stores to St. Domingo, by requiring that the cargoes

shall have licenses."

EARL TEMPLE to THE SAME.

1806, July 20. Stowe.—"I rather believe the means will be afforded me of offering James Talbot, to whom my father and I am under engagements, the situation of Deputy Paymaster-General at Halifax, worth 500l. per annum. I cannot however offer him this without knowing whether it may not be so managed as to prevent his warrant for the pension he enjoys for his diplomatic services from being superseded, in consequence of his acceptance of this office. Whatever may have been the merits or the demerits of those services, it comes within my own personal knowledge that he did completely exhaust his patrimony in that line from which he seems now to be excluded. I should therefore hope that this may be managed for him, and that my father and I shall thereby be released from engagements which now press upon us, and which possibly may eventually press upon us in a manner very difficult to get rid of without being obliged to trespass upon you. There are particular reasons which make mc very anxious to get rid of this Halifax situation which, if it is vacant at all, will become so to-morrow, as soon as possible. I have not opened a word of it yet to Talbot, neither shall I till I hear from you. You will understand that what we ask is not a new warrant for Talbot, but an acquiescence in his holding my place with his pension under the existing warrant."

LORD GRENVILLE to EARL TEMPLE.

1806, July 21. Downing Street.—"I will enquire about the question in your letter. If it depends on me I heartily consent; but I fear a doubt arises on the construction of the clause in the civil list Act." Copy.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 21.—" I saw Sir John Anstruther to-day, who is just arrived from India; he waited upon you this morning, and is anxious to see you. I wish you would appoint a time to receive him soon. He is very well disposed, and you will find his conduct very satisfactory.

"Not having heard from you respecting Ipswich or Seaford, I conclude that you think Arthur had better not appear at Ipswich, and that you approve the arrangement for Seaford.

"I am very desirous of seeing you for an hour; a pleasure I have not enjoyed for nearly a fortnight; pray fix some time soon."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, July 22. Roehampton.—"I am here in order to pass this day at Fulham with the Bishop of London, and to attend the marriage of another daughter, the last ceremony of the kind to which I can be subject for some years. I shall now have time to advert more to my sons, and to think of what I said to you respecting them in February last. I have no other objects in official life; not wishing to have any situation beyond that which I possess, and which I try to make beneficial to the public, and not uncreditable to your Government. I regret that my cldest son (who is now visiting Scotland and the Western Isles) has not the advantage of being known to you, as it has always been his wish. But I feel the fullest confidence that both in public and private life he will in due time find means to justify and maintain the general estimation which he possesses. As to my second son, it certainly would be a great convenience to me (with so numerous a charge, and so insufficient an income) if he could obtain some small office not incompatible with the study of the law, and his intended residence in Lincoln's Inn. Upon the whole I hope that I am not unreasonable.

"We go to Shottesbroke to-morrow for three or four days, and shall then (with the exception of a short visit to Mr. Hatsell and the Speaker) be fixed at Eden Farm till the

15th September, when we go into Lincolnshire."

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to THE SAME.

1806, July 23. Stowe.—"I cannot describe to you the difficulties you have put me under by the precipitate arrangement which you have made respecting Buckingham. It never had occurred to me, even for a moment, to propose Fremantle for that vacancy, which I had distinctly offered for Lord Percy; whom I could elect consistently with the rule from which my uncle and I never have departed in any one instance, of recommending relations only.

"Your letter informs me that you have written to the Duke of Northumberland to announce to him Lord Percy's

destination for Enniskillen; and I have no doubt but that your intentions were for what you judged the best for me, looking to possible events; but, differing with you in the view of this question, even with reference to possible events, I earnestly beg you to relieve me from this very serious awkwardness, to which you have committed me, from not adverting to my offer, and from not apprizing me by a messenger of your idea of abandoning Enniskillen for Fremantle. If there is still time, pray arrange the change with the Duke of Northumberland, and let me have the satisfaction of abiding

by my rule, which I had no idea of abandoning.

"But least you should think that I had thrown out a slight difficulty on this matter, which appeared so serious to my son that he offered to go to London to explain it to you, as one that he thought almost insurmountable, I have delayed this note till I have been to Buckingham; where I found, as I expected, an anxious desire to gratify me, but much disappointment at the nomination of Fremantle. I did not, of course, name Lord Percy; but I was obliged to say that I had agreed to open Proby's seat with a view to a relation of my own, in which I had been disappointed by particular circumstances; and the matter ends in their acceptance of Fremantle, but it is not liked.

"I have therefore, as you see, endeavoured to meet your wishes against my opinion of what I should have thought best, had there been no difficulty, but against every opinion for the reasons I have stated; and I will abide by the nomination, if you cannot change it, but earnestly begging you to

do your best to relieve me.

"The future election for St. Mawes, so far as I am concerned, may and shall assist Proby; but my promise must be subject to George Nugent's decision, as I had offered him the seat, and he had accepted it. I have fixed that the Buckingham election shall not be sooner than the Thursday or Friday of next week, on account of our assizes on Monday and Tuesday next. But I have as yet received no resignation from Fremantle, and the Deputy Teller is by law ineligible anywhere. He must therefore send me a formal resignation without delay, and I cannot write to him upon it, for reasons.

"I grieve to hear you pronounce Fox's death warrant, even for the month of November, because, though I think it probable that the question of peace or war will have been decided before that time, still the times and circumstances make his life invaluable. I fear that his party will not rally under Lord Howick who, on every account, ought to lead in the House of Commons, leaving the foreign seals to my brother. I find that he sees a difficulty in supposing all the Seeretaries of State in the House of Commons, a difficulty which was not felt when they were all—Lord Hawkesbury, Mulgrave and Camden—in the House of Lords, but which might be avoided by leaving Lord Howick in the Admiralty,

where he is doing all that ean be done in a scene of mischief, plunder, and insubordination, beyond imagination; and still leaving him to lead the House of Commons in the same manner as Lord Holland did for one session in 1762, when Paymaster.

"In one word I have very much at heart, that Lord Howiek should remain at the Admiralty; that T. Grenville should have the foreign seals on the vacancy of Mr. Fox; that Lord Holland should not have the foreign seals; and that we should prevail upon Windham to assist Government by going into opposition.

Pray let me have a line by return of post, and believe me ready to forego my wishes for yours, whenever and wherever I can."

C. GODDARD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 24. Paris.—"I was honoured the day before yesterday with your Lordship's kind note, and I, at the same time, received from Lord Yarmouth a note desiring me to eome to Paris, and expressing his wish for my assistance. On my arrival he communicated to me the state of the negotiation. He aequainted me, at the same time, that I should be at liberty to return to England in a few days. I assured him that if he thought I could be of the smallest use to him, I should readily remain here till I could again hear from your lordship, provided the permission or rather promise which he had obtained from Tallyrand would hold good equally some time hence. He assured me that I should accompany

him to England.

"Great as would be my pleasure in availing myself immediately of the permission in question, a week or ten days would at any rate be necessary to enable me to dispose of my effects at St. Germain; but, independently of this necessity, I readily embrace the opportunity of bringing myself, however indirectly, under the eyes of Mr. Fox, and of marking the sineere and earnest desire I have of being useful, and of obtaining at length some fixed and settled employment, such as your lordship's kindness formerly designed in my favour, if my health had admitted of it. I need not say that my wishes in this respect are subordinate to any intentions of another nature which your lordship might, under the present eircumstances, entertain in my favour; and I shall immediately obey any commands which you may think fit to give me, as I shall be thankful for any advice on the same subject.

"From what I have seen of Lord Yarmouth, I am inclined to believe that he possesses both the judgment and the temper requisite to sueeeed here, if indeed any suecess is to be expected. He has lodged me here in an hotel opposite that where he lives, and has proposed to me to dine to-day with Talleyrand. I am sensible that these attentions are the

consequence of the kind manner in which your lordship has written to him respecting me, and it is for that reason I mention them.

"I would not venture to write to Mr. Fox, or to state to him my public grounds for applying to him for employment without receiving your lordship's permission to do it. Without some such statement he might perhaps think that I wish to begin the line with a secretaryship of legation; and tho' I have certainly no claim to expect that my years of illness, and consequent inactivity, should be counted to me for service, I persuade myself that I might obtain, by your lordship's kind recommendation, to be placed on the footing on which I stood at the time of quitting the Lisbon consulship, which, in its worst state, was fully equal to the appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, July 24. Admiralty.—"The comptroller of the navy has just been with me, to represent that all our Dantzick goods, of which we are in the greatest want for the navy, are stopped by the Swedish blockade. Will you consider of the speediest and most effectual means for obviating this distress.

"I have all at once got uneasy from the apprehension of Jerome's pushing for Lisbon. If he should go in there with his six ships, he might even without troops take possession of the forts, and then the march of the army from Bayonne would make the thing certain. Might it not, therefore, be advisable to send immediately a squadron off the Tagus?"

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, July 25. Downing Street.—" Lord Grenville feels the greatest concern in transmitting to your Majesty the inclosed dispatches from Lord Yarmouth, together with a copy of the treaty and secret articles signed by M. D'Oubril, and which Lord Grenville received to-day from Count Stroganoff. The unexampled disgrace of this transaction, together with the language of M. D'Oubril's letters to M. de Stroganoff which the latter read to Lord Grenville to-day, inclines Lord Grenville to hope that some credit is due to Count Stroganoff's strong assurances that M. D'Oubril's conduct cannot have been authorised by his Court. And under the impression of the possibility of this, your Majesty's servants have taken upon themselves, which they trust your Majesty will not disapprove, to send off this night a messenger by a fast sailing cutter to Petersburgh, to direct your Majesty's minister there to make strong and immediate representations against the ratification of the treaty.

"Your Majesty's servants are inclined, after much and long discussion of the difficult situation which results from this

unfortunate event, and from Lord Yarmouth's precipitation in delivering his full powers without fresh orders, to think that the best course would be to send instructions to Lord Yarmouth to ask for passports for a person of more experience and authority to be joined with him in this commission; and to proceed to Paris in order to bring back the negotiation to the principles on which it first set out, and which, Lord Grenville is sorry to say, it appears to him that Lord Yarmouth has suffered to be a great deal too much lost sight of. And Lord Grenville hopes to be enabled to-morrow to submit to your Majesty some proper person for that purpose.

"Lord Grenville regrets exceedingly that the continuance of Mr. Fox's severe illness has thrown upon him the weight of a business to the detail of which, in addition to the current business of his own station, he feels himself so unequal; and he humbly solicits your Majesty's indulgence for any inaccuracy that may appear under these circumstances in the conduct

of it." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to COUNT STROGANOFF.

1806, July 25. Downing Street.—"Nous avons résolu d'envoyer, sans perdre un instant, un courier, sur un eutter,

avec la dépêche dont je vous envoye la copie.

"Un autre sera prêt pour partir demain avec les dépêches plus étendues que nous aurons réspectivement à envoyer. Si vous voulez écrire quelques mots par ce premier cutter, je vous prierai seulement de ne pas le retarder, parceque dans ces circonstances la perte de quelques heures pourroit, par un changement de vent, amener celle de plusieurs jours."

THE SAME to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, July 25. Downing Street.—"There has been some time a negotiation going on with the King of Sweden about his blockade, which is troublesome enough to us in various ways. I think you had best desire Walpole to write a fresh

letter to Pierrepoint on the subject.

"The alarm you express about Jerome's possible appearance at Lisbon is certainly worth attending to in our arrangements, and I do not see what inconvenience there would be in a squadron off the Tagus, except the employment of so many ships which might be wanted elsewhere. In every other view the measure could not but be advantageous." Copy.

Observations on Lord Yarmouth's despatches of the 20th and 21st of July by Lord Grenville.

1806, July 25.—"It is plain that Lord Yarmouth does not feel his own ground, and is much too prompt in committing us without authority by new expedients of his own.

"He ought not to have given in his full powers, his instructions forbidding it. In other respects I do not know that

this step was of much consequence; but it shews too great a

readiness to give way without orders.

"I wish it were possible to join some other person with him, who might act more conformably to our ideas. If this cannot be, he must then be put more on his guard for the future.

"I think he might be now enabled to bring the negotiation

at once to a definitive issue.

"1st. The difficulty as to Sicily may, and in justice should, be thrown wholly on Russia. It is through Russia that we were bound to the King of Naples; and as Russia has stipulated to obtain the consent of that sovereign to the proposed exchange, she should be left to do it, we engaging only that we will throw no obstacles in it, but will acquiesce whenever

applied to for that purpose by his Sicilian Majesty.

"2ndly. If there is any question of Sardinia (which could be of no value to the King of Naples) it can only be by stipulating that, notwithstanding the general principle of status quo, yet considering the desire of Great Britain to provide some satisfactory arrangement for the King of Sardinia, we shall be at liberty to make such settlement on that point with him as we judge best, and can accomplish by mutual consent. This would best be done by a guaranty of Sardinia to the King of Sardinia, with a power to England to keep up a garrison there for its defence.

"3rdly. The addition of Corsica to the indemnities for Sicily seems hardly worth asking, and should not delay the

negotiation.

"4thly. As to Tobago and St. Lucie we cannot, I think, listen for a single instant to any proposal of including them in any discussion of the terms of peace as between us and France.

"But if France, in exchange for one or both of them, will obtain (not Cuba, which is absurd to ask), but something on the continent of South America to better the lot of the King of Naples, we might honourably agree to purchase such advantage for him by some sacrifice of our own interest.

"It must, however, be remembered that St. Lucie and Tobago stand on very difficult grounds. The former is a French colony; the latter is bona fide English, entirely settled and inhabited by English, tho' ceded to France in 1783, and restored to her in 1801.

"The people of Tobago have repeatedly shewn a decided attachment to us, for which they would certainly suffer if

restored to Bonaparte's government.

"I have, indeed, been told that in 1803, a general confiscation of the whole English property (that is the whole property) in Tobago was on the point of taking place on an allegation of disloyalty. Should such a thing be done after a peace (for which their late conduct would afford fresh ground) we should either have to indemnify them, or to renew the war for their separate interests.

"On this ground the inclination of my mind would be to retain Tobago at all events, and to give St. Lucie only in such

exchange as is before stated.

"5thly. Lord Yarmouth says nothing of Surinam and Demerary. But these fall under the general principle, and must be insisted on. And in order to prevent affected delays, under the pretence of obtaining the eonsent of Bonaparte's allies, our evacuation of Sieily must be made to depend on the execution of all other articles of the treaty.

"6thly. A guaranty of the *ūti possidetis* (modified as above) is quite as necessary to be procured for Spain, as for Portugal, tho' Lord Yarmouth expresses a doubt on this

point.

"7thly. In whatever manner these points are shaped, Lord Yarmouth ought now to be told what our *ultimatum* is, and should be positively ordered either to obtain that or to eome away. Our motive for temporizing ceased with the Russian peace; and delay now only gives ground against us, and impedes our resolutions for the ease of war, if we must look to a prolongation of it." *Draft. Holograph*.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 26. Windsor Castle.—"The King has read with great coneern the despatches from Lord Yarmouth, and the articles of the treaty signed by Monsieur d'Oubril; and under circumstances so difficult and unpleasant his Majesty eannot but entirely approve of the instructions sent to his minister at Petersburgh, and of the proposal to send to Paris, as soon as possible, a person of more experience and authority than Lord Yarmouth who, his Majesty cannot forbear thinking, has not shown great judgment in his proceedings. The King desires Lord Grenville will be assured that he has entire eonfidence in his abilities and firmness towards extricating this country from the very embarrassing situation in which it would be placed unless the original principle, which his Majesty always thought conceded full enough, is most positively reverted to; and he trusts that nothing will in future lead to a departure from it, or to an abandonment of Sieily."

LORD GRENVILLE to the EARL OF YARMOUTH.

1806, July 26. Downing Street.—"I have to return your lordship my best acknowledgments for your obliging letter

respecting Mr. Goddard.

"I am doubtful whether Mr. Fox's health will allow of his writing to your lordship in this form to-night. And I therefore think it right to mention to your lordship that the Earl of Lauderdale is the person whom it is at present in the contemplation of the King's ministers to join with your lordship in the eommission for treating for peace. His name cannot yet be officially notified to your lordship, or through you to

the French government; but there can be no objection to your expressing your belief that his lordship will be the person on whom this honourable choice will fall.

"The demand of passports in blank is by no means unusual in such a case, and I trust therefore that this eircumstance will

not, if no other eause does, ereate any fresh difficulty.

"It would, I am confident, be doing great injustice to your lordship's good sense and zeal for the public service, if I entertained or expressed any doubt of the satisfaction with which you will receive the assistance of such a colleague in a business which requires all the experience, talents, and weight that can possibly be applied to it." Copy.

LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

Baron Jacobi both ealled here this morning, and as they had some business to transact with ministers, I took the liberty of saying that I was sure you would, in my uncle's present state of health, receive their communications. I found, however, that the latter's business was one too trifling to give you the trouble of a formal interview about it, and undertook to make the application, which was simply for permission to return to Hamburgh early in the ensuing month in a packet boat, an indulgence which he represents as a natural return for the permission granted to Mr. Jackson of having a packet boat at Hamburgh to convey him and his family. If such an order is not improper, a word to the Postmaster from you will, I suppose, be sufficient. My uncle is not worse.

Postscript.—"Count Stahremberg, I suspect, is anxious to have it in his power to say in his dispatches that he has seen a minister, and I therefore ventured to assure him you would

see him."

LORD GRENVILLE to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, July 27. Downing Street.—"I have carefully considered Mr. Stapleton's petition which you put into my hands, and I find from it that he has established no more than that the barony of Beaumont is in abeyanee, and that he is descended from one of the co-heirs; but it does not appear from the petition who the representatives are of the other co-heirs.

"The determination of an abeyanee in favour of one of the lines between which it rests is not, I believe, considered at all as a less distinguished mark of the king's favour than the original grant of a peerage. In some respects it is even a greater object, on account of the superior rank which it conveys, and of the descent of such peerage to the daughters of the person to whom it is so determined.

"Under these eireumstanees, and with the great pressure which there is upon Government on the subject of peerages,

and with which I believe you are well acquainted, I fear I cannot undertake at this time to recommend to his Majesty a compliance with Mr. Stapleton's wishes." Copy.

The Marquis of Buckingham to Lord Grenville.

1806, July 27. Stowe.—"I have received your note and am heartily sorry for this additional chapter to the history of national degradation in the instance of d'Oubril's peace; and connecting it with Novosilkoff's resignation, and the other events in Petersburgh, I have no doubt with you but that it will be ratified. Of course any tone which we now hold in our negotiations at Paris will be considered by Bonaparte as too high for our insulated and unassisted situation, and will add to our difficulties. Nevertheless I think I see the advantage to Bonaparte so great in making any peace that is to disarm us from the state in which we now are, that I feel quite persuaded he will accede to such terms as will be ultimately ruinous to us, and yet such as even I should not

dare to advise you to refuse.

"Your accounts of Fox are unfortunately but too strongly confirmed this morning, and from very accurate accounts I begin now to think it possible that a few days may elose these doubts; but that, at all events, a month or six weeks is very much the outside of his term. I have, as you will believe, looked very much to all the various solutions, but I cannot satisfy my mind on any that have occurred to me. I have no doubt but that great exertions will be made by Fox's friends to keep together as an efficient body, and with you; but that which it was fit for you to concede to Fox's talents, situation and experience, does not stand on the same ground as with respect to any other person. My speculations are that Opposition will expect to alarm you with the prospects of their hanging together in a shape of active and united hostility, but that they will treat separately the moment that they see you determined to resist pretensions that would, in every shape, be ruinous to your character and situation."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, July 28. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to acquaint your Majesty that, on eonsidering the despatches received this morning from Lord Yarmouth, it appeared to your Majesty's servants indispensable that not a moment should be lost in sending him such explicit and positive directions as might restrain him from further committing your Majesty's Government without instructions.

"It was with this view that the enclosed draft was prepared, and from the urgency of the circumstances, Lord Grenville has ventured to take upon himself to desire that it might immediately be despatched; although he had not

previously had the honour of receiving your Majesty's pleasure respecting the appointment of the Earl of Lauderdale, whom your Majesty's servants beg leave to recommend to your Majesty to be sent to Paris as soon as the necessary passports shall arrive. Lord Grenville begs permission to add that he has conversed fully with Lord Lauderdale on the subject, and he has no doubt that he will go there with the fullest dispositions to execute punctually the intention of your Majesty's Government." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

approves of Lord Grenville's not having delayed sending the answer to Lord Yarmouth's despatch received yesterday, and he acquiesces in the proposed appointment of Lord Lauderdale, trusting that under the instructions which he will receive from Lord Grenville, he will never encourage any proposal departing from the outline first established, nor disgrace this country by admitting even the discussion of points wholly inconsistent with her honour and her resources which, in his Majesty's opinion, will be much better applied in meeting even the present difficulties, than in effecting a precarious peace. From the tenor of Lord Yarmouth's conduct, which cannot make him appear a safe person to be joined in the present commission, his Majesty conceives that it would be much more advisable to entrust Lord Lauderdale solely with the further conduct of the negotiation."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, July 30. Dublin Castle.—"Newport arrived a few days ago. As it appears that the collectorship of Derry must be divided, I have proposed that the excise collection (which is most connected with the county) should be given to the Ponsonbys, and that the Hill's should have the port collection. J. Claudius Beresford has undertaken to sound Sir George Hill on this suggestion, and the Chancellor has written on the subject to Lord Ponsonby. It will be most essential to the success of the negotiation that we should have the full weight of your authority; and it will be very useful, if you will let the Lord Lieutenant have such a letter, as he may show to the Chancellor, expressing your anxiety that an arrangement should be made with the Beresfords.

"I shall not fail to apprize you, if any opportunity should occur for the purchase of seats. I am very anxious to secure Cashel, but I am afraid Pennefather looks to a seat either at the Board of Stamps, or at the Board of Accounts, for his son, and I at present see no prospect of a vacancy. However, means may present themselves previous to a general election, which I am glad to find is to be postponed to another year.

"I have not yet fixed any precise time for going to England. There are many points on which I am very desirous of conversing with you, and I hope to see you at Dropmore early in the autumn. I must also meet Lord Minto in London before his departure for India."

The EARL OF YARMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 30. [Paris.]—"I had the honor of receiving your lordship's letter on the 28th, and you have done justice to my zeal and good wishes when you anticipate the pleasure I shall feel at the co-operation of Lord Lauderdale, or any person his Majesty's ministers may send with full instructions.

"Mr. Goddard, who is so good to take this letter, will explain everything that has passed to your lordship. It only remains for me to repeat to you the infinite obligations I feel for his

goodness and attention to me."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

Admiralty.—"You have forgot the 1806, July 30. enclosure, so that I cannot judge of the grounds on which Lord Rosslyn's opinion is formed. From all I have heard of the state of the Portuguese government and army, I eannot bring myself to believe it would be very difficult to get possession of the forts. If we are to ealeulate upon the force of the Portuguese army as equal to its numbers, and as likely to be vigorously opposed to us, then undoubtedly a large army prepared to undertake and to support a regular siege would be required. But of this I have no idea, and if we should be disappointed in the effort to be produced by a landing of 5 or 6,000 men, I should hope it would not be difficult to bring them off again without any considerable loss. There certainly would be some risk, but the question is whether the object is of sufficient importance, and the chances of success or security against any great loss so encouraging as to justify us in meeting it. Lord Rosslyn, I am afraid, is rather too cautious. It is possible that even without a land force we may by means of our fleet be able to save the Portuguese navy, or at least the greater part of it; but as to this I certainly am not very sanguine.

"I will endeavour to eollect a sufficient force for Lord St. Vincent as soon as possible, but I think it would not be prudent, after the accounts received of what is said to have happened in Calabria, to delay sending both naval and military reinforcements to Sieily; and this rather embarrasses me, as I am very unwilling to leave any opening for Jerome.

"As to the instructions, I do not see why they should not be formed on our original ideas, as, of course, Lord Rosslyn would proceed only in the execution of them so far as might appear consistent with a reasonable prospect of success."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, July 30. [Pall Mall.]—"I have seen Mr. Gambier, who is perhaps as much too sanguine as Lord R[osslyn] may be suspected of being too much the contrary. He is of opinion that three or four thousand French would march from one end of the kingdom to the other; and, therefore, has no doubt of three or four thousand British being sufficient for the other service. He thinks, however, that the leading persons in the Government would be much more hostile to the British than to the French. The ships, too, are in a state to require time for bringing them away; being in the state of what we call ships in ordinary. The forts, according to his notion, would be silenced, at least in the hands of the present possessors, by three or four ships of the line. The object is certainly considerable; twelve very fine seventy-four's, and about fourteen frigates, besides a number of Brazil men, capable of being immediately converted into vessels of war.

"I feel inclined to the attempt, and, what you will think very odd, should doubt whether, if it were finally resolved on, a fitter man could be found to carry it into execution than Tarleton. It is not that I have acquired any new admiration of his powers during the course of the late Parliamentary debates, or that I reckon him a great general; but I think the service in question is one of those that he is fit for, and probably more fit for than a better man. It is a service, not of combination, but of decision and enterprise, one in which a prompt determination is almost as important as a right one. It is possible that, in the course of time, Tarleton may have lost even the qualities which I am here supporting; but if he is what he was formerly, I should question whether he was not as proper a choice as could be made. It may be said, and perhaps with some truth, that one must have but a bad opinion of the service for which he could be the properest person.

"One of the worst circumstances that occurs is, that the most efficient regiment which their service contains is commanded by a Frenchman, who, though a man of good principles, can hardly, in such a crisis, be expected to lean to counsels adverse to the French; and who, if he is to act on that side, will bring against us not only French activity, but French activity exerted probably to the utmost, with a view of making his peace with the conquerors. This corps is only a regiment; but a regiment is something where the total inefficiency of the enemy's means must be the great basis of our hopes. I feel inclined to talk again to Stuart; but, in that case, one must open one's views to him more distinctly. There must be a communication also with the navy people, for which purpose I will call to-morrow upon Lord Howick."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, July 31. [Pall Mall.]—"Let me correct a mistake without delay which could make me be supposed to have thought of Tarleton for any purpose of negotiation. My idea was, in the case of Tarleton being employed, to separate the functions, and to leave to him nothing but the execution of the service when the person sent forward to Lisbon should give, as it were, the signal. It must be, I think, in that way that the service would best be executed, whoever should be the person employed.

"An officer low in rank involves the inconvenience which occurred in the case of Craufurd lately, and which makes the only impediment to the employing him now. There is no one to whom such a service could be better confided in all its parts: but it would be impossible almost to find 4,000 men among whom there should not be found officers senior to him, and who would, of consequence, object to serving under his

command."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, July [31.]—"By an accident I was prevented from seeing Canning until a late hour this night. I find, as I expected, that the limited proposition, as stated by you, is not likely to succeed; and I think it would be desirable to terminate the discussion as soon as possible. I should be glad to call upon you to-morrow at any hour when I could hope to find you at leisure; I will take my chance at twelve; and if you cannot see me at that time, I wish you would leave directions with your porter respecting the time when you are likely to be disengaged."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, August 1. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit to your Majesty the inclosed draft, which was read this evening at the meeting of your

Majesty's confidential servants.

"Mr. Goddard, who was the bearer of Lord Yarmouth's despatch, has brought with him the enclosed notes of a project which Monsieur Talleyrand and General Clarke read to Lord Yarmouth, but which Lord Yarmouth refused to accept or to transmit officially.

"These notes were taken by Mr. Goddard at the desire of Monsieur Talleyrand and Lord Yarmouth, and in their presence, but it was understood that they were not to be

considered as official communications.

"Your Majesty will perceive that they are wholly inadmissible, differing hardly at all from the terms stated in Lord Yarmouth's last despatch.

"Under these circumstances, the probability of a successful issue to the negotiation must be considered as being very small

indeed. But it appeared to your Majesty's servants that if, after having asked for passports for Lord Lauderdale, there had been any delay in his proceeding to Paris, that circumstance would have afforded to the enemy a specious ground for invidious comments. He will, therefore, if your Majesty approves it, set off to-morrow." Copy.

Private. The Same to W. Elliot.

1806, August 1. Downing Street.—"I have received a letter from Newport urging (and I think with reason) the necessity of framing a code of instructions for the two new Revenue Boards, by which they are to be confined strictly within the limits of their duty, and prohibited from assuming any discretion or latitude in points which, according to the practice of this country, ought to be left to the Board of Treasury, under whose orders they must always consider themselves as acting. This suggestion appears to me quite right, and I have directed a search to be made here to find whether we have any code of standing instructions for those Boards; and if we have, copies will be sent to you in order that you may direct a draft to be framed on that model, mutatis mutandis. If there is no such precedent, still the thing is right, and you will be at no loss in framing one. I should wish to see it before it be finally adopted.

"We had some conversation last night about the possibility of raising Catholic regiments in Ireland for service in Sicily, Malta, and Portugal. Pray let me have your opinion on this subject, and beg the Lord Lieutenant to turn it in his mind. Would it be best to try independent companies, or battalions? We could, as you know, give temporary rank and half-pay after the war; and the subalterns so brought into the army would be capable of receiving, and

would be recommended for promotion in other corps.

"If the Catholic body could really be interested as a body in the success of this measure, its advantages might be infinite." Copy.

COUNT STROGANOFF to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 1. Upper Grosvenor Street.—"Le Comte Stroganoff a l'honneur de présenter ses hommages à my lord Grenville, et celui de le prier de vouloir bien lui accorder un moment d'entretien dans le courant de la journée de demain. "Le Comte Stroganoff ayant prévalû sur le Prince de

"Le Comte Stroganoff ayant prévalû sur le Prince de Castelcicala de déférer le départ de son courier pour St. Petersburgh jusqu'à demain, a pris sur lui d'obtenir du ministère du Roi un bâtiment pour le transport du courier Napolitain nomé François Riggio jusqu' à Gottenbourg; il supplie en conséquence my lord Grenville de vouloir bien faire en sorte que les ordres soient envoyés à cet éffet de bonne heure, soit à Harwich soit à Yarmouth.

"Il prie son excellence d'agréer ses excuses de la liberté qu' il prend, et de croire, en même tems, qu'il lui aura une obligation particulière, si elle voudroit bien complaire à sa demande."

LORD GRENVILLE to EARL SPENCER.

1806, August 1. Downing Street.—"I have read the letter from Lord Pembroke which you left with me. I am myself very desirous that the public should treat with him for the medals, and I think there cannot be a fairer proposal than his, provided that it be understood that as he will not be bound to sell at the valued price, so neither should we be bound to buy. But that, if the purchase is made, the price shall be that which shall have been so fixed." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 2 [1]. Windsor Castle.—"The King approves of Lord Lauderdale's setting out to Paris to-morrow, upon the grounds stated in Lord Grenville's letter; and also of the instructions which he will receive; but his Majesty entirely agrees with Lord Grenville that there is very small probability of a successful issue to a negotiation in which terms are proposed which, his Majesty trusts, will at no time, and under no circumstances, be considered by his Government otherwise than dishonourable, and therefore inadmissible."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, August 2. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour to transmit to your Majesty a narrative which Mr. Goddard drew up by Lord Grenville's desire of the circumstances attending the notes of the project which he brought over. Lord Lauderdale left town this morning." Copy.

THE SAME to the EARL OF YARMOUTH.

1806, August 2. Downing Street.—"I was unwilling to detain Lord Lauderdale for the purpose of replying particularly to the unfounded allegations of M. Talleyrand which you have recapitulated in your despatch of the 30th instant. But some points are there mentioned which cannot be left without an answer, such as I trust indeed your lordship has already given to them.

"It is true, as stated by that minister, that when the demand was made for Lord Lauderdale's passport, there still remained here a blank passport, one of the two sent here some time before your lordship's arrival, when it had been proposed to us to treat separately from Russia. That proposal having fallen to the ground, the circumstance of our being still in possession of the passport was overlooked; but even if it had

occurred, some doubt would probably have arisen how far it might be proper in so different a state of things to make use of it for Lord Lauderdale, without some previous

communication of such an intention.

"This whole matter is, however, very immaterial. The principal point to which I feel it necessary to advert is that part of M. de Talleyrand's language which imputes to this country needless delays in the negotiation, and attributes to that cause the unjustifiable measures pursued by France in Germany and elsewhere.

"In the instructions given to Lord Lauderdale the repeated tergiversations of France during the negotiation are detailed.

It is from these alone that delay has arisen.

"Your lordship truly states that the offers made through yourself were so clearly and unequivocably expressed that the intention of the French government could not be doubted. But they were no sooner made than departed from. In the first conference after your lordship's return to France, Sicily was demanded. In the former offers, it had been distinctly disclaimed: "vous l'avez, nous [ne] vous le demandons pas. Si nous la possedions, elle pourrait augmenter de beaucoup les difficultés."

"This demand therefore could not have been foreseen, being in contradiction to their own assurances, and your Lordship could only take it ad referendum. This produced a delay attributable solely to France. Our answer was immediate and distinct. The new demand was declared to be a breach of the proposed basis in its most essential part. To obviate a cavil on the subject of full powers, they were not sent to you but with an express injunction not to use them, nor even to produce them formally, till the French government should return to its former ground respecting Sicily. Your lordship stated this to M. de Talleyrand, and you received in return a proposal of giving to his Majesty or to the King of Naples the Hans towns in licu of Sicily. This being again a proposition entirely new, could only be referred for his Majesty's consideration. On the very next day after it arrived, it was decidedly rejected here; and so little were we disposed to delay, that the same despatch conveyed to you his Majesty's orders, if the demand of Sicily should still be persisted in, to desire your passports and return England.

"Of this order your lordship informed M. de Talleyrand, and its execution was delayed only by a fresh proposal of exchanges, and this brought forward by France and supported by the Russian minister, as the means by which his Majesty might prevent, amongst other things, the changes meditated in Germany. M. de Talleyrand, it appears, now represents this communication in the following terms: 'We told you that if you had powers, or would enter into negotiation, we would

not sign the arrangement in Germany.'

"But M. de Talleyrand's real communication is to be found in your lordship's despatch of the 9th of July, in which he says that those changes 'were determined upon, but should not be

published if peace took place.'

"That despatch was received here on the 12th, and on the 17th, in direct violation of these assurances in whichever form they were conveyed, the German treaties were actually signed and published at Paris. They must have been prepared before. What M. de Talleyrand therefore calls a reasonable time allowed to your lordship to consult your Government was less than 24 hours, even supposing the utmost possible expedition, and no accident or delay either by land or sea.

"These dates will undoubtedly not have escaped your lordship, and will have enabled you to refute in the most decisive manner the unfounded pretences by which the French government seeks to attribute to delays on our part the results

of its own injustice and manifest breach of promise.

"The whole of our intercourse with France bears indeed so different a character from that of delay, and the whole of the King's conduct in this, as in every other instance, is marked by so many striking proofs of his desire to avert, even by the greatest sacrifice, such calamities as he is now accused of producing, that your lordship may perhaps have felt it less necessary to enter into a particular refutation of such a charge.

"But in treating with such a Government as that of France, it is of the highest consequence not to suffer such imputations to pass unnoticed, and by disregard, to acquire strength and

currency." Draft. Holograph.

LORD GRENVILLE to the EARL OF YARMOUTH.

1806, August 2. Downing Street.—"Mr. Goddard will return to-morrow, thinking himself under some degree of engagement to M. de Talleyrand to do so. There seems so little probability of a successful issue of the negotiation in the present temper of the French government, that I feel very anxious for his sake that he may be sent back as soon as possible, and without any restriction as to his return.

"I beg to return your lordship my best thanks for your

obliging attention to him." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 3. Windsor Castle.—"The King returns thanks to Lord Grenville for his communication of Mr. Goddard's narrative, of which the contents, in his Majesty's opinion, tend to confirm the impression that there can be no hopes of peace with such a Government as that at present existing in France."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, August 3. Hastings.—"I received your note here this moment, having come to this place upon a visit to Arthur.

He will attend you whenever you choose to summon him; you will send to him either by express or by post, as you may judge necessary.

"I thought it most advisable to send this by express."

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, August 4. Downing Street.—"It is a great mortification to me and, I am convinced, a real loss to the public service, that a difficulty about etiquette, and the necessity of sending out an officer who could not serve under your brother must deprive us of the benefit of his services in the business

"He will, of course, therefore say nothing of what has passed, and will, I hope, believe how much I regret that what was in contemplation cannot be." Copy.

The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE. .

1806, August 6. Phœnix Park.—"By the death of Lord Landaff a vacancy occurs in the representation of the county of Tipperary, and I merely write these lines to say that it appears to us here that Mr. Pritty, son-in-law to the Chancellor, and a gentleman of respectable fortune and character in the county, is the most proper person to succeed to the vacancy. As it is very possible that your lordship may have applications for the support of Government from Lord Landaff's family in favour of Colonel Mathew (who would by no means be acceptable to the county) I have thought it right to put you upon your guard.

"The most attentive consideration shall be given to the measure suggested by your lordship in your letter to Mr. Elliot respecting the raising Roman Catholic corps in Ireland for foreign service; and the result of our enquiries and deliberations will be conveyed to your lordship by

Mr. Elliot when he goes to England."

Private. VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, August 6. Admiralty.—" I am very sorry for Graham's refusal, as I do not know any other person whom I think altogether so well qualified for this mission.

"Whitbread certainly would do extremely well, but the state of my sister's health is such, that I am sure he would

not on any account leave England.

"The only doubt I have about Tierney is that which I before expressed to you. But with the instructions he will receive, and Lord St. Vincent to keep him up, I think we shall run no great risk in trusting him. In every other respect he certainly is well qualified, except that he may want some of the facilities which are only acquired by living abroad, or by intercourse with foreigners. I should mention to you that before Lord Rosslyn was named, Fox expressed a wish that

Lord St. John might be sent. I confess he never would have occurred to me as an eligible person; but I am not sufficiently qualified by any very intimate acquaintance with him, to judge of his fitness for such a trust. If you should decide upon Tierney, you may have him at a few hours notice, as he is at Wimbledon; and if you wish me to speak to him first, I will send for him."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, August 6. Dublin Castle.—"The official recommendation of the commissioners of the two Boards of Revenue will be despatched to-morrow, and you will render us a material service, if you will direct the King's letters to be transmitted hither, so soon as the forms of the Treasury will permit. As the two commissioners next in seniority to Lord Castle-Coote are Vandeleur and Townsend, the Lord Lieutenant has named them for the second chairs. Townsend formerly practised at the Bar, and is still qualified for the deputy-chair at the Excise Board. Newport has stated to you his ideas with regard to the division of some of the large collectorships, and I therefore need not trouble you on that subject.

"Lord Granard's brother is, I understand, to offer himself for the county of Longford at the general election, and, I take it for granted, is to be supported. At least Lord Rosse informed me that he had been induced to promise Mr. Forbes

his interest at the request of some of the ministers.

"Newport, I presume, is to have all the aid we can give him at Waterford, as he tells me that Lord Waterford is under an engagement to Mr. Alcock."

Private. THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, August 6. Dublin Castle.—"Your suggestion with regard to Catholic levies comprises a topic which I had reserved for discussion with you and Windham, when I go to London. It is a subject on which I do not yet feel prepared to form an opinion, but I hope to be able to furnish you with information on it by the time I see you, which, I trust, will be in the course of a very few weeks. Whether it would be practicable to interest the Catholics, as a body, in the measure, I much doubt; but you might, nevertheless, perhaps be able to raise a few battalions by giving the command of them to Catholics of estimation and influence in the country. However, if you were to form any corps for rank, the most rigid regulations must be established in respect to bounty, otherwise you will revive the evil of competition.

"Lord Belmore, who professes a firm and zealous adherence to the present Government, is anxious to be considered as the leading interest in the county of Tyrone. He, I find, supports Knox, and he states that Knox will follow his politics. It is said too that Lord Abercorn has promised Knox his aid,

in which ease Sir John Stuart will of eourse withdraw his pretensions, and Knox and James Stewart must eome in without opposition. As Lord Abereorn seems to be in implaeable hostility to you in Parliament, it may (if you approve of it) be worth while to cultivate Lord Belmore, who has a large property in the eounty of Tyrone.

Postscript.—"I have had another interview with J. Claudius Beresford, and I have reason to believe that Lord Waterford will be satisfied if Sir George Hill's brother has the port

eollection in Londonderry.

"As Judge Johnson is still solieiting a noli prosequi, I wish some decision could be formed on it."

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to THE SAME.

1806, August 7. Carlton House.—" I arrived in town this day, and am very desirous of having the pleasure of a few minutes conversation with you. May I therefore request of you to eall upon me at twelve o'clock, or at any time before that hour to-morrow, having many subjects to talk over with you, and some matters which have eome to my knowledge, and which I consider it as very necessary should be imparted to you. I hope you will forgive me for troubling you with this note."

LORD HENRY PETTY to THE SAME.

1806, August 7.—"I am sure you will be glad to hear that the operation has been performed upon Fox as successfully as it was possible; his pulse did not sink during the whole time, and, upon examining since, the physicians agree in opinion that there is no enlargement of the liver which was what they most dreaded. This is more favourable than any of us could have expected."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, August 7. Admiralty.—"I have just seen Lord Holland and am happy to tell you that he is willing to undertake the business about which I spoke to him yesterday. He wishes to devote to-morrow to his unele, as he is allowed to see no other person except Mrs. Fox; but will wait upon you at any time afterwards that you will fix, to receive your instructions.

"The more I think of this expedition to Portugal the more I am convinced that every thing depends upon time, and that it would be better to risk a failure in an attempt at a coup de main, than to make a failure almost certain by delay. The most sanguine ealeulation will not allow us to expect that the troops can be off the Tagus before the 21st. If the French army is, therefore, in the state of readiness we are taught to believe, what time would there be for a siege? But if we are to wait for ordnance stores to any considerable amount,

you must I am sure allow another fortnight at least; and then, in addition to the time given to the enemy, it must be considered that you will be approaching to a season when it may be difficult for the fleet to maintain a certain communication with the shore."

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 7. Wotton.—"Nothing can be kinder than all your obliging attentions to my wishes, not only where your own judgment agrees with me, but where it even differs. I have seen Simcoe, who left me this morning entirely disposed to embark for India, with nothing but his aides de camp, and his writing man, and ready to meet, du meilleur de son cœur, any idea such as your note intimates to me of a short command. I have discussed very fully with him the idea of raising troops in India for West Indian service, which his command at St. Domingo enables him to judge of; and he is most sanguine in that object, which, whether we have peace or war, is most essential. Nugent will be most happy, for this is the very object which at his request I threw out to you, but upon which there was no opening. I have written to him to desire him to go to town (from Cheltenham) to thank you, and to receive his western lessons from Simcoe.

"I am delighted that we have caught one of the four West Indian frigates, and trust that Harvey may fall in with the others. It is essential that these squadrons should be checked, and the public opinion on their success put down; for the good fortune of the Rochfort squadron, for eleven months, had

produced an awkward effect.

"I have received from the Duke of Northumberland a letter on the subject of Lord Percy, expressing in the most eager terms 'his obligations to you and to me, and his anxiety that Lord Percy should commence his political career under the guidance of those, with whom he has the honour to be so nearly allied in blood, and whose public opinions he respects so highly.'

"The election comes on, on Monday, and I shall return hither on Tuesday, for the hopes of tempting Tom and you to join our Wotton party, even for twenty-four hours, in the course of next week. We shall not return to Stowe till Monday week, and would defer it for the hopes of one day's union here, if you

could encourage us to hope for it.

"By my calculation Lord Lauderdale's first courier will be with you about Sunday, and he will—unless sent to the Temple—have been kicked out of Paris, so as to arrive in London about Tucsday or Wednesday; and you will then be at liberty with Tom to come to Aylesbury, where my horses shall meet you, and bring you here on Saturday evening, to pass Sunday here, and to return on Monday, if you cannot make longer holidays. See how I arrange all this for you, and I do so, because much as I love my brothers, I love them best of all at Wotton."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, August 8. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit to your Majesty for your Majesty's royal signature credentials and full powers for the Earl of St. Vincent, Lieutenant-General Simcoe, and the Earl of Rosslyn, whom your Majesty's servants beg leave to recommend to be joined with the two former, and to be specially charged with the negotiation at Lisbon. Lord St. Vincent is probably already there, and if your Majesty is graciously pleased to approve it, Lord Rosslyn and General Simcoe will set out to-morrow to proceed there on board of a frigate.

"Lord Grenville has also the honour to transmit the copies which he has received to-day from Count Stroganoff of despatches to that minister from Baron Budberg of as late date as the 10th of last month, in which there is no appearance of any change of system as to peace with France; and which, consequently, seem to confirm Count Stroganoff's hopes that Monsieur d'Oubril's treaty will not be ratified. Lord Grenville judged these papers so important that he has taken upon himself to send a messenger to the Earl of Lauderdalc with copies of them.

"Lord Grenville begs leave to mention to your Majesty that the operation of tapping was performed yesterday on Mr. Fox with entire success; and that the medical people report the present appearances of his case to be more favourable than they had before supposed, though it must still, of course, be

considered as doubtful in the issue." Copy.

Private. The Same to W. Elliot.

1806, August 8. Downing Street.—"I will take care to expedite the King's letters as you desire. The collectorship of Derry seems as well settled as it can be. Lord Ponsonby's dangerous illness prevents my being able to have any communication with him upon the subject.

"What is your opinion as to the propriety of accelerating the Waterford and Limerick superannuations in order to carry

the division into effect there? I doubt it.

"I have heard nothing about the county of Longford, except generally that Lord Forbes is to stand. Who are his opponents, and how connected and disposed?

"Newport must, of course, be assisted all we can at

Waterford.

"In a few days, a very few I think, we shall know, war or peace. I think the former; and in that expectation I am beyond measure anxious to give some practicable shape to the raising Catholic regiments in Ireland. If it can be done in no better shape, I should think it might even be worth while to raise fencibles, with power to recruit them for general service; but you know all the objections we feel to that measure, and how infinitely preferable we should think it to

raise regiments for general service at once, or to raise independent companies with power to attach them to such battalions as we should judge fit.

"Pray mention this subject to the Lord Lieutenant, and say how much we should all feel indebted to him if he can give

any praetieable form to any plan for this purpose.

"The account of Fox to-day is as favourable as it could be." Copy.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

1806, August 8. Downing Street.—"You will hear with pleasure that the operation was performed yesterday on Mr. Fox with perfect success, and that the report of the medical people is as favourable as it could possibly be. I saw Vaughan immediately after. He told me that all the circumstances and appearances were exactly such as he would have most wished to find them. His strength appeared greater than they expected. He did not faint at all, and to-day appears, as they say, very much relieved. But what is most material is that they have, satisfactorily as they think, ascertained that there is no enlargement of the liver, which they had before thought there was. Vaughan says that this does not alter his opinion that the seat of the disorder is there, but he considers it as less formidable than he had supposed. The danger of mortification from the wound will not, as they say, be over till to-morrow night, but hitherto there has been no appearance to give them any alarm on that point. All this is certainly much more encouraging than one eould have hoped; though undoubtedly there is still much to be done before one ean allow oneself to look to a favourable issue.

"Budberg's despatches do certainly indicate more adherence to the former system than we expected; and I do think, after writing in such a style, they can hardly be prepared in three

weeks after to ratify such a treaty as Oubril's.

"I think you mentioned to me how desirable it was that you should take the opportunity of your residence at Paris to forward some money to the English prisoners of all descriptions. I trust you will have the means of doing this. There is an institution I understand for the education of some of the poorer children of the détenus, which is in great want of funds, and to which you might convey some. You will of course use your own discretion in these points, and you may be very sure that any acts of charity of that description will be entirely agreeable here.

"If discussions should proceed, pray do not overlook the slave trade. I think it appears clearly that Bonaparte is not much influenced by the motives of justice or humanity on which we act, and indeed how should he? But I really think we might shame him by an official note so as to make it very difficult for him to refuse his concurrence, supposing other

things adjusted." Copy.

THE SAME to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, August 8. Downing Street.—"The two American commissioners Monroe and Pinckney are very pressing that their negotiation should be entered upon; and, indeed, I do not think it at all desirable that the thing should be any longer delayed. It is, however, quite impossible that Mr. Fox should just now enter into these discussions, nor is it more possible that they should be carried on by any of our colleagues who are all quite new to the business, or by myself, who, God knows, have more than enough upon my shoulders already.

"I therefore suggested on Wednesday to the King the idea, which he approved of, authorising two persons by special commission to treat on this business; and I have proposed to Lord Holland to undertake it with you, which he is ready to do, if you have no objection. I need not dwell on the motives of the choice, which are obvious enough in both instances; but I earnestly hope you will not be unwilling to undertake this service, in which you may on every account be more useful

than any other person could.

"If you will only authorise me to direct that your acceptance should be signified to these two Americans, the preparation of the commission and instructions may then take a little time, before the expiration of which I may hope to be able to converse with you on the whole subject." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 8. Eden Farm.—"My answer to your proposition is obvious and direct. Wishing to render to the King's Government every service in my power, I am ready to receive his Majesty's commands to undertake (within this island) any duty of which I may be thought capable. And when the difficult service in question is to be by commissioners, I am happy to be associated with Lord Holland, whose abilities I know and respect, and whose temper and turn of mind are peculiarly agreeable to me. So far, therefore, as I am concerned, any communication may be made to Messicurs Pinckney and Morris [Monroe?] as immediately as may be thought expedient. And I will appropriate to their negotiation every hour that can be spared without injury to more urgent businesses."

Private. THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, August 8. Eden Farm.—"If I could have felt any hesitation as to the decision to which my separate letter relates, it would have arisen from a feeling that I have already as much to do as I am able to execute with credit to myself or safety to your Government. The current businesses of Whitehall, including a great proportion of those belonging to the Council, are become from various causes very numerous, very important, and sometimes very difficult. And this morning, for example, though I am supposed to be idling at this place,

I was fully occupied in writing official minutes and directions from half-past six till two o'clock. I have in truth been working some time to secure a three or four weeks' recess, as we had arranged a plan for visiting several of our daughters and their husbands from the 22nd September to the 28th October. We shall be sorry to abandon that plan, but it is a secondary consideration.

"Whilst I was writing my separate letter the idea occurred to me that my eldest son (now travelling in the Highlands) would be a good secretary in such a commission. He is not new in business; his natural talents are certainly of a superior class, he is well known to Lord Holland, and has been honoured by his friendly notice. But I would not hurt the grace of my acceptance by a personal suggestion which possibly may not be practicable; and, indeed, if it were practicable it would be infinitely better to be proposed by Lord Holland."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 8. [Pall Mall.]—"I have seen Simcoe, who feels no objection to the appointment in question, whether with a view to the civil or military functions. In the latter view he conceived it so eligible as to reckon among its recommendations that, in the event of his own retiring when the time should come for his going to India, the command

would thus devolve upon a proper successor.

"The only circumstance to create a doubt to those who may not be of that opinion is, that Simcoe does not wish altogether to give up his prospects in India, though preferring European service should there be a prospect of its being such as he would like. I should be very glad if, in that view, we could offer him the command in the Mediterranean; but that opportunity was, I think, lost past recovery when Moore was sent out second; and the only way now of restoring it would be by an exchange, should it be thought advisable to send Moore to India, and should the service in the Mediterranean assume the shape which it possibly may do."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, August 9. Windsor Castle.—"The King has received with much satisfaction the communications from Count Strogenoff, and approves of Lord Grenville's having immediately sent copies of them to Lord Lauderdale. Majesty also entirely approves of the instructions prepared for the Earl of St. Vincent, Lieutenant-General Simcoe, and the Earl of Rosslyn, in whose appointment, conjointly with the two first-named, he acquiesces.

"The King is sensible of Lord Grenville's attention in informing him of the result of the operation performed on Thursday on Mr. Fox, and is well aware that in such a case, Lord Grenville cannot possibly speak with confidence as to

the issue."

LORD GRENVILLE tO LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, August 9. Downing Street.—"I rejoice very much in your kind and ready acceptance of the additional trouble of the American negociation—a work, I fear, of no light labour or difficulty. I have asked the two American ministers to dine with me on Wednesday, and have ordered a card to be sent to you, though I know you do not like great dinners, and particularly dinners in town at this season of the year.

"I am not aware that there can be the least difficulty in so natural a wish as the having your son named secretary to the committee. It may, however, be best not to decide this till I can talk to Lord Holland about it, lest it should occasion any jealousy or uneasiness there, which would be very adverse

to the good success of the business." Copy.

THE SAME to LORD HOLLAND.

1806, August 9. Downing Street.—"I am extremely happy in your acceptance of the commission which Lord Howick mentioned to you, and I also learn from Lord Auckland that he is equally ready to undertake it.

"If it is possible, I wish to get twenty-four hours in the country this evening and to-morrow, but I shall certainly be back on Monday, and shall be happy to see you that day at

any hour that suits you.

"I really hope one may, without being sanguine, found a good deal of favourable expectation on the accounts of the medical people within these last two days.

"The great thing will be to see what ground can be gained

as to preventing fresh accumulation of water." Copy.

LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 9.—"I am at your orders any time from eleven to seven o'clock on Monday, and will thank you to let me know when I shall call upon you by a note directed to my uncle's, Stable Yard. My uncle has been very weak both to-day and yesterday, but he has many favourable symptoms, and the physicians think that he has no organic disease that has made any progress, and that, since the operation, many symptoms favourable to the cure have occurred. This is encouraging, though I cannot conceal from myself that there are some counterbalancing appearances which one is less disposed to dwell upon."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, August 10. Eden Farm.—"I know nothing yet of the Sierra Leone application: but I presume that the parties, finding themselves involved in an expensive and embarrassing project, would be glad to transfer that concern to the broader shoulders of the public.

"I have not been inattentive to the proposed order of council for regulating the West India intercourse; but the Act of Parliament was not printed till Thursday last. I have now received it, and will prepare a draft of an order to be referred on Wednesday next to the Attorney and Solicitor General for their correction and concurrence. And perhaps they will attend at the committee; I have written to them with that view.

"Sir Joseph Bankes has written a long and ingenious paper (in consequence of your suggestion) on the means of recording on the reverse of coins and tokens the principal events which take place in the British Empire." I reserve it for your perusal till you shall be somewhat less overwhelmed by business.

"I understand that our St. Domingo commerce has found notice in the newspapers; and it is stated that 'this trade

with a black emperor is a fair trade.'

"I hope that you will before Wednesday, and even tomorrow if convenient, return the Papenburg minute, with your corrections, either to me or to Sir Stephen Cotterel. I am sorry for the innocent individuals, who are personally very importunate; but I submit to you that, with respect to the blockade, and the general impression wished to be maintained, and, indeed, in respect also to the character and consistency of Government, it is expedient to give the negative implied in

the proposed minute.

"I will not fail to meet Mr. Monro and Mr. Pinckney at your dinner on Wednesday next, though it is at this season and distance a complaisance which Lady Grenville and you will not be induced to reciprocate if I should propose to you to meet them (and Mrs. Monro) at this place. Confidentially speaking, the tone and tendencies of that negotiation seem to me to depend a little on the probabilities of a general peace. In the meantime, it certainly is desirable to show any ostensible and respectful attention to the discussion. If the American gentlemen have full powers, our commission should make us also plenipotentiaries, and in that case Lord Holland and I ought to kiss hands. If that be so, I should be glad to have notice; it will be an additional annoyance at this season. Query also, whether it should not be right, and also an acceptable attention to Lord Holland, that he should be of the Privy Council, and also of the Committee of Trade to which, if the discussion should go forwards, several incidental questions must be referred.

"I will not say anything to my son about the secretaryship to the commission, until you shall have found that it would be quite acceptable to Lord Holland; but the sooner that can be done the better. I will write three or four lines of more

general politeness to Lord Holland.

"The reports of the wheat harvest are various; in this district the grain is abundant and quite clean. But in many parts of the kingdom there has been a partial blight.

"I annex a paper on the linen yarn business. The parties came with it on this fine Sunday morning, and insisted on a long audience."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 10. Phænix Park.—" I feel most anxious to learn whether your lordship has come to any determination as to the collectorship of Derry. I understand that Mr. George Ponsonby has received an impression, from a conversation he had with your lordship on the subject, that your wishes were in favour of the Ponsonby family recommending to the present vacancy. I cannot help thinking that he must have misunderstood your sentiments; but, at all events, to avoid the embarrassment which must necessarily result from so long a state of uncertainty, I feel it essential to have them distinctly recorded, and in a mode which may be communicated either to the Chancellor or Lord Waterford.

"It is probable that the new Boards of Revenue may recommend that the collection should be divided under the separate heads of excise and customs, in which case I understand Lord Waterford and Sir George Hill would be satisfied with the nomination to the collectorship of customs, which would embrace the patronage of the town; and it appears but reasonable that the Ponsonbys should be equally so with the collectorship of excise, which must be all that can be

desired for county purposes."

EARL TEMPLE to THE SAME.

1806, August 10. Avington.—"I enclose you a letter I received from General Porter; I do not know whether you know him. In the days of Fox's old opposition, in those of Addington's first administration, and of the subsequent opposition, he was the person chiefly entrusted with keeping the party in the House of Commons in order. His services were invaluable. I can assure you there is no one in the House whose assistance would be so important in that line as his. His knowledge of the House is every thing that can be wished, and to the manager of the House of Commons he would be of the greatest use. He is now, as you see, well inclined (as he has often before told me he was) to attach himself to you. I have written to him to say that he cannot be Secretary of the Treasury, but that I shall be very happy to assist his views as far as I can. This I have said merely from a conviction that he can be of the greatest use to you, as I certainly have individually no object in serving General Porter. Pray take the letter into consideration, and let me know whether I can hold out any hopes of his attaining any object he may have in view, compatible with your engagements. Direct to me at Exmouth, Devon, for which place I set out on Wednesday."

C. GODDARD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 11. Paris.—"We are here in a state of great uncertainty. Though Lord Lauderdale, who is a perfect man of business, and has besides a clear head and a correct judgment, will have informed your lordship of every particular worth your knowing, I cannot help recapitulating shortly what has passed. It may be sometimes useful to receive different impressions of persons very unequal in point of judgment and ability, and it is assuredly in this view only that I present to your lordship those which I have received from what is passing here. On the day after my arrival here Lord Lauderdale, who had, in the mean time, shewn his powers, presented the note which is enclosed in his despatch. I was sorry not to have been here sooner, in order to have seen it the day before. He communicated it to me the day he sent it, but as he did not express any doubt with respect to the French, I did not think myself at liberty to offer my opinion. Since that time he has allowed me to put his ideas into French; but I regret that, in his first paper, more justice was not done to the matter. We had been forty-eight hours without any answer to the demand of passports, both for a courier and for Lords Yarmouth and Lauderdale, when the note of this evening was received from the two French Plenipotentaries. It is very remarkable that in that note two of the most important words are written upon a part of the paper from which there has been an erasure; that the words substituted are written in another hand, and evidently with a gold or silver pen. Now Bonaparte writes with a gold one, and the hand is perfectly resembling. The words are adopte and trouve, and are in the 3rd page. Talleyrand, Clarke, and Champagny have been constantly at St. Cloud for the last three days. Clarke is known to write constantly under the Emperor's dictating.

"I had written thus far when letters were received from M. Talleyrand; the one official, which your lordship will see, the other private, rejoicing with Lord Lauderdale in the news of Mr. Fox's amendment. Though Lords Lauderdale and Yarmouth have made two applications to M. Talleyrand, the one for a passport for me to return with them to England, the other for an assurance from him that, if I should have an official appointment here from England, my liberty would be granted me, and my parole returned, they have been able to obtain no answer from him. He has assured me, however, in the most solemn manner that the moment I am able to produce him an official appointment from the King as Secretary to the mission, on the usual footing such as Mr. Merry had it, he will instantly release me from my parole, as he did Lord Yarmouth. I need not, after this, request your lordship to send me such an appointment. Lord Cornwallis's mission was like this, a special one; it is named so at least in the Treasury letter; and Mr. Merry is there called 'his Majesty's Secretary to his Extraordinary Embassy' at Paris. But even if there

should be any difference, which I may not be aware of, in the nature of the present mission, it is essential, I beg leave to observe, that the appointment should be an official one from the King, on the footing of a Secretary of Embassy, without which it will not gain me my liberty; and also that, like Mr. Merry's, it should contain the clause giving full powers in case of the absence of the Plenipotentiaries, without which the appointment would, in truth, be no object to me. in point of emolument, the 2l. a day is less than my pension, which I forfeit during the interval, not to mention the fces on the appointment; and the only prospect I could look to, though assuredly a very temporary one, would be that of the being alone here during the time, long or short, between the departing of the present Plenipotentiaries, and the arrival of an Ambassador. This on the supposition of peace. But doubtful as it is, the object of relieving me from my parole is sufficient to make me anxious that, at all events, the appointment in due form may arrive with all possible speed. I know your lordship will enter into my feelings on this head. You may depend, however, on my not shewing it to Talleyrand without Lord Lauderdale previously receiving a formal assurance that, on its being shewn, the object shall be instantly obtained.

"I doubt not that applications will be made from the Office for some one to come out to us here as a sort of assistant secretary. Your lordship will see by the despatches how doubtful it is whether any secretary will long be wanted here; but, in any case, with the people who surround us here, it might be very mischievous to have any young or imprudent person here; in a country where every thing is sold, every thing is attempted to be bought. If our situation was fixed here, I would propose Broughton as a sober, careful, trusty person; but the truth is, no one will be wanted. It is not that I have much assistance from Lord Lauderdale's friends whom he brought with him; for your lordship knows how much depends on habit in business, and how much easier it is, nine times in ten, to do the thing oneself than to direct others. The only thing that fatigues me is the mechanical part of writing, long continued; which since my illness costs me a great deal; but I think we may get through this affair, even if it should be pursued to the end, without further assistance. At least I will do my best.

"M. Talleyrand's excuses for not sending the passports appeared to Lord Lauderdale as futile as to myself, especially the courier's; but he judged that the repetition of his complaint, at the beginning of his note this evening, would be sufficient; at least that he could not on that account forbear answering the questions relative to the basis, and

once more putting it on its true footing.

"It was not intended to send Basilico to-night, but M. Talleyrand has thought proper, contrary to his former

usage, to put the courier's name in the passport, and to fix on Basilico. He takes your lordship's maps and books, and the china for Lady Grenville."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, August 11. Dropmore.—"I have this morning received your grace's letter respecting the vacancy in Tipperary. If any application is made to me on the subject, I will certainly explain that the Government interest is

given to Mr. Pritty.

"We are in hourly expectation of our messenger from Paris. If he does not bring peace, and I do not expect he will, we shall be extremely anxious to pursue any practicable plan for Catholic levies in Ireland. If the command should be given, as will probably be desirable, to Catholic gentlemen or noblemen, the best course would then probably be to make the regiments fencibles, with service limited to the British islands, and with a power to the men of volunteering for general service at stated periods of the year, and at a fixed bounty; but on this subject I shall be most anxious to know your ideas." Copy.

THE SAME to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, August 11. Dropmore.—"I see no possible objection

to the minute on the Papenburgh claim.

"I do not see any objection to grant what is now asked about the German yarn; that is to give notice that no more will be admitted, and to admit this only on giving security for the payment of duties within six months, unless previously relieved by Act of Parliament.

"But in what manner can this be legally done? Who has the power to do this—the Privy Council or the Treasury? If neither, I certainly should not approve of considering this

as a case for breaking the law on indemnity.

"I shall be in town to-morrow, if anything further occurs to you on the subject." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL TEMPLE.

1806, August 11. Downing Street.—"King mentioned to me General Porter's application, and I desired him to express in return that I wished much to avail myself of his assistance, and only desired him to point out in what way I could assist his wishes; and that if it is in my power, consistently with other engagements, I shall be glad to do it. Something of that sort it might be well for you to write him." Copy.

The Earl of Lauderdale to Lord Grenville.

1806, August 12. Paris.—" In relation to the army said to be formed at Bayonne, it is my opinion that, in Lord Yarmouth's despatch, the French government is represented

as in a greater state of forwardness in point of preparation than I really believe to be the truth. I had this day a conversation with Lima, who I take to be perfectly under the dominion of M. Talleyrand. He began by stating to me that an army was formed to march through Spain for the purposes stated to your lordship by Lord Yarmouth; but on pressing him to name the regiments and the commanders, he very soon drew back, and then said that he knew there was preparation for the provisions and contracts for hospitals for an army of 20,000 men, but he could only name one regiment that he believed to be under orders for Bayonne. The American minister, whom I saw this morning, seemed to think that it was in agitation to form an army there, but that no great number of troops was hitherto collected together.

"I have got a gentleman who has been connected in some money transactions with Mr. Hervas, whose connection with Spain your lordship must know, to undertake to find out from him what is the real situation of the Bayonne army,

in the course of the day."

8 o'cleck p.m. "The report I have received of Mr. Hervas's conversation is, that he holds the idea of an invasion of Spain, for the purpose of marching to Portugal, perfectly cheap."

1806, August 14. Paris. "This morning I received the information contained in the enclosure (A). It is from the American resident at Madrid, who, I am told, is a very intelligent man. I read his whole letter, and made this extract, which contains the only valuable information.

"The enclosure (B) is an anonymous letter which your

lordship may like to read.

"I do believe that in the evening of Thursday the 7th, the day I delivered my first note to General Clarke, a Colonel Swaine of the Artillery, for whom Lord Yarmouth had procured a passport, was sent to England by way of Antwerp or Rotterdam. Your lordship will see a paragraph in the enclosed newspaper which I suppose alludes to him."

One paper (B) enclosed.

Enclosure (B).

A FRIEND TO HIS COUNTRY to the EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

1806, August 12. Paris.—"Were it in my power to add my name to these lines, I flatter myself it would but increase their importance, and contribute to convince your lordship that the motives which dictate them are honorable, and the assertions they contain perfectly correct.

"These assertions, founded on circumstances with which your lordship is far better acquainted than I can be, prove their own veracity, and bear with themselves the stamp of

"In the outset of the present negotiation, Lord Yarmouth, who, I have reason to believe, first received the idea of entering into it from the person I shall shortly have occasion to name,

made an agreement with that person (Monsieur De Montron) to operate, as circumstances might direct, in the public funds of the two countries. For that purpose they appointed in London an agent with whose name and with the particulars of whose cooperation I am not sufficiently acquainted to enter into any further details respecting them. On this side, as De Montron was not a man of character and responsibility such as were requisite to carry on an operation of the nature and importance of that which they were to embark in, they, or rather De Montron, resolved upon associating in the concern a jobber of large capital and credit here, of the name of De Tillière. With him, and with De Montron, the SECRET of NEGOTIATION HAS RESTED EVER SINCE THE OUTSET; nay more, Lord Yarmouth has ever since that period been open to the insinuations, and to the surveillance if I may so call it, of De Montron, who is known to be an intelligent diplomatic spy, the active and dangerous agent of M. de Talleyrand.

"These facts are well known to others, and De Montron's connection with Lord Yarmouth and his family is, unfortunately for his lordship, and indeed for the country he in some

measure, represents, the common talk of the town.

"A very late circumstance will fully prove these assertions, and will the more particularly strike your lordship, as it is

quite recent.

"Yesterday morning at nine o'clock, on the arrival of the messenger (Mr. Godard I believe) your lordship sent for Lord Yarmouth, who, after remaining with your lordship about three quarters of an hour, returned home, went immediately over the way to De Montron who lives at the Hotel Cerutti, and sent him at eleven o'clock with the secret of negotiation to De Tillière the jobbing partner. Lord Yarmouth is perhaps not aware that it afterwards immediately went to M. de Talleyrand who was thereby fully prepared to confer on the subject to the greatest possible advantage.

"I need not enter into any further details to convince your lordship what a source of disgrace and detriment to the country

such low, unguarded, infamy must be.

"I entrust the present communication to your lordship's sagacity and discernment."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 12. [Pall Mall.]—"Should not something be said to Souza? Lord Howick has mentioned to him that Lord Rosslyn was gone; as it seemed necessary to do when circumstances placed him in the situation of either stating the fact, or of appearing studiously to conceal it. It would, I should think, not yet be desirable to tell him all that was intended.

"I have settled with Sir Francis Vincent not to let the Lisbon packet go without adopting means to prevent its arrival, previously to its having spoken with Lord St. Vincent,"

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, August 14. Downing Street.—"On the fullest consideration of the question respecting the collectorship of Derry it appears to me that the best mode of combining what is due to the interests of Government and to the just claims of our friends and supporters, will be that the collectorship of customs should be separated from that of excise; a measure extremely desirable in itself, and corresponding with the system now adopted for the general management of the revenue; and that in making such a division, the collectorship of the customs, as most connected with the town of Derry should be given to the recommendation of Sir George Hill, and the collectorship of excise as more naturally attaching to county interests, to that of Lord Ponsonby. If your Grace approves of this proposal, it certainly is that which seems to me the most equitable in a case where the Government is under the painful necessity of deciding between the claims of persons from whom it receives so friendly and liberal a support." Copy.

MEMORANDUM by LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 14. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has thought the subject of Lord Lauderdale's private letters to him so important, and the necessity of acting upon them so urgent, that he has not felt himself at liberty, notwithstanding the delicacy of their contents, to withhold them from the King's ministers."

[Endorsed.] "Note with which I sent the enclosed private letters of Lord Lauderdale in circulation to all the King's ministers.

"Lord Yarmouth was instantly recalled."

Five Enclosures. Enclosure (1).

Most private. The Earl of Lauderdale to The Same.

1806, August 7. Paris.—" I am placed here in many respects in a situation in which there is no inconsiderable difficulty in deciding how I should conduct myself. There is one thing, however, in which I have no difficulty, and that is in stating to your lordship that you should not lose a moment in recalling

Lord Yarmouth from this country.

"I suspect that the general opinion which prevails here, that throughout this business he has had connections with persons engaged in very extensive speculations in the funds in both countries, is unfortunately not unfounded; but even were the case otherwise, I am sure your lordship will agree with me that the universal belief which is here entertained on the subject is sufficient to decide your lordship in the measure to be adopted.

"Many believe that his being selected as the bearer of the message to Mr. Fox was concerted with a view to secure the appointment which ensued, and by that means to have the whole negotiation placed in hands that might render it subservient to the disgraceful purposes of those concerned in the project.

"Since I arrived here, I have hardly seen a single person who did not exhibit some apprehension of this sort by a smile or some other significant expression of the countenance; and the number of people no way connected or acquainted with one another that have stated the thing directly to me leaves no doubt of the general impression which prevails.

"A few hours after my arrival I called upon a lady who, I am certain, would on no account deceive me. There was a number of people in the room just going to dinner. My visit was of course short and the conversation trifling; but she contrived to follow me into the antichamber and in a whisper stated the general opinion, and warned me of what she called my danger.

my danger.
"The next morning (Wednesday the 6th) I saw several
English gentlemen who all began with vague and distant
insinuations, but, after a little pressing on my part, and anxious
entreaties of secrecy on theirs, ended in telling me the same

story

"Among others, Paul Benfield called, who gave me the greatest number of details, and mentioned a variety of

authorities in support of them.

"Lord Howick will recollect a Mr. Devereux, an Irish gentleman who lived some years ago a good deal at Brooke's. He is not remarkable for talent or discernment, but he mixes much in society; and the variety of characters unconnected with one another who concur in the same statement is the best

evidence that it forms matter of very general belief.

"Before dinner I saw a Mr. Lattin [Laffin?], an Irish Catholic gentleman whom I have known many years; a man that has passed the greatest part of his life in France, and who possesses very considerable abilities. He stated in like manner that he thought it a duty he owed to his country and to me to mention the prevailing suspicion, and the certainty that much had been done in the funds here.

"In the course of the same forenoon, a French gentleman who has access to the best information, and with whom I have been long connected in friendship, took an opportunity of assuring me very scriously that he believed the message to England and the whole transaction to be subservient to the

purposes which have been already alluded to.

"The people in the Government of this country are acquitted by those I have conversed with of any direct participation in these stock jobbing speculations on their own private account. It is the creatures around them who are the great objects of suspicion; and the motive of Government for winking

at the thing, and even encouraging it, is to secure the influence which self-interest could not fail to give it over a person so

circumstanced in the conduct of a negotiation.

"After having read these details, your lordship will, I think, approve of my conduct when I inform you that I have thought it right not to communicate any part of my instructions to Lord Yarmouth. I have kept him in good humour by consulting him how to get different people leave to go to England, and by showing him part of the Russian treaty which he was anxious to see.

"But it is my determination not to communicate to him the paper I intend this morning to deliver to General Clarke, 'till just before we go to his Excellency's, and not to lose sight

of him after he has read it 'till it is given in.

"Your lordship cannot easily conceive how much I feel the disagreeable duty of making this private communication. I am extremely desirous that it should not be made more public than is necessary, and that your lordship would manage the recall of Lord Yarmouth in such a manner that no suspicion should arise of it's being suggested by me; because, if I am to remain here, and if the business I am sent upon is to have a chance of succeeding, it would be unwise to provoke the resentment of any individuals who might eventually be useful. But this is probably a needless caution, as I think it highly unlikely that the supposition should take place on which it proceeds."

1806, August 8, Friday morning.—"Since writing the above, I find some difficulty may arise in recalling Lord Yarmouth from the eircumstance of the Emperor's having thought proper to appoint another Plenipotentiary; thinking it right on his part to follow his Majesty's example in nominating two. Clarke has already stated to me that my being added formed an interruption to the progress of the negotiation; and they

might affect to consider the recall in the same light.

"Of this it is for your lordship to judge. I have no dread of his interfering, for I have him in complete subjection. He can do no harm, except by his character; and in so far as he may have it in his power to communicate what is going on."

Enclosure (2).

Most private. The Earl of Lauderdale to Lord Grenville.

1806, August 8. Paris.—"Referring your lordship to what I have thought it necessary to communicate in my private letter marked on the outside *Most private*, *No.* 1. I have now further to add that I am more and more convinced that the general impression existing here makes the recall of Lord Yarmouth highly desirable.

"In writing to your lordship I feel that I ought to have no reserve. I must, therefore, inform you that the received

opinion here that Lady Yarmouth intrigues with Montron, the creature and tool of Talleyrand, adds to the disgusting

reports everywhere circulated.

"As a means of doing this quietly I beg leave to suggest to your lordship that the paragraph I have put into the public despatch of this date seems calculated to furnish you with plausible grounds to put an end at once to Lord Yarmouth's

"I have there said that General Clarke, affecting to think that his Majesty has taken advantage by nominating two Plenipotentiaries, had announced the Emperor's intention of doing the same. It appears to me that your lordship might affect indignation at this insinuation, and withdraw Lord Yarmouth in order to give clear proof of it's being unfounded, instructing me at the same time to make no objection to the continuance of the two Plenipotentiaries, if the Emperor chooses it.

"I am exceedingly pleased with Mr. Goddard, and feel that his presence here will be a real advantage to me."

Enclosure (3).

Most private. The Earl of Lauderdale to Lord Grenville.

1806, August 9. Paris.—"I thought it proper to send you my private letters No. 1 and 2, though, from the public despatch, you will see that there is no longer any prospect that you will have an opportunity of adopting the suggestion they contain. They will give your lordship, however, some idea of the difficulty of the situation in which I have been placed. I can assure you I suffered this morning more than I perhaps ever experienced on any other occasion of my life, from real dread that I should not get my colleague pushed on to sign what I thought quite necessary. As it is, I think it will do.

"Nothing that I can possibly foresee will make me remain I now write at half past one in the morning, when I have not yet got an answer to the letter I wrote demanding passports for Lord Yarmouth and myself. Indeed they have not sent an answer to a letter which was delivered at an earlier

hour, requiring a passport for a courier."

Enclosure (4).

Most private. The Same to The Same.

1806, August 11. Paris, 11 o'clock at night.—"You will see from my last public despatch that it is just possible, though highly improbable, that I should remain here. I have only to say that every hour it appears to me more and more necessary, if that should happen, that Lord Yarmouth should be recalled. In the present situation of things, he and Lady Yarmouth passed the whole of yesterday at M. de Talleyrand's house, and Lady Yarmouth exhibited all this

night at a great concert with Madame Talleyrand. It is really my opinion they know everything I allow him to know within half an hour.

"Your lordship may enclose to me the recall, which I will

keep back if we have quitted Paris.

"I really have not time to detail all the circumstances which lead me to press this step as necessary; but I do assure your lordship I never had a more clear conviction upon any

subject in my life.

"In consequence of the letter I received from your lordship enclosing a letter to me from Messrs. Gordon and Murphy, I this day found out the residence of Mr. Pallyat in the Rue St. Honoré. His relation, with whom he lodged, said he had gone to the country three days ago; but Messrs. Thornton and Power the bankers are of opinion that he has proceeded through Holland on his way to England. He had a credit upon them for two hundred pounds sterling, all of which he has drawn out.

"Previous to the receipt of your lordship's letter mentioning the disposition of Government to relieve the poor English prisoners, I had received a letter from Lord Howick on the subject, and had taken steps to ascertain the expenditure of the committee for two or three years past, with an intention to place in the hands of two confidential persons a sum equal to the amount of what had been expended during the last year on the schools and infirmaries. Though I had not proceeded in my enquiry sufficiently to ascertain the whole of the expence, I saw enough to learn that the subscriptions have been to an extent highly honorable to the British nation; and imagining that I should be under the necessity of immediately proceeding to England, I yesterday placed one thousand pounds in the names of the Rev. Mr. Lee and Captain Gerrard for these purposes. The former was recommended to me by the character he universally possesses in this country by his management of those concerns; the latter was known to me as a man of great integrity, from his having had the management of my brother-in-law the Marquis of Tweeddale's concerns when he died in this country.

"Every thing in my power will be done in the event of our leaving France to bring Mr. Goddard along with me; but, if there was no other reason for the measure, I must request of your lordship, instantly to send a courier with an appointment for him as Secretary, in which case the faith of M. de Tallcyrand is pledged to relieve him from his parole. Even if the courier should meet me upon the road, by writing back to Paris, and enclosing the appointment, I know it will have it's effect.

"I am in a situation perhaps full of difficulty, but in which I should feel completely at my ease if it were not for my colleague; but your lordship may trust to me that every public document he signs shall be consistent with what the

honor of the country requires.

"It is my own opinion that the Emperor wishes to keep me 'till after the *fete* of the 15th, but, unless the Government come to proper terms, they shall have hard work for it."

Enclosure (5).

Most private. The Earl of Lauderdale to Lord Grenville.

1806, August 11. Paris, 12 o'clock at night.—" In despatch No. 4, you will see Lord Yarmouth has made an addition. I have just time to say that I have had the greatest difficulty to get him to sign the last note."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

1806, August 14. Downing Street.—"Although it cannot, I trust, be necessary to add any thing to what is said in the public despatch of the entire satisfaction which your conduct has given here, yet I cannot help just repeating here acknowledgments to you for it, and expressing how much we all feel relieved by it from the very unpleasant situation in which the business had been placed before your arrival.

"I thank you also for the explicit manner in which you have stated the impressions you have found prevalent on the subject of Lord Yarmouth. Under those circumstances there could not be a moment's hesitation as to the line to be taken; the thing itself was indispensable, and in the mode of doing

it I have adopted your suggestion.

"I have desired Sir Francis to enclose under cover to you separately the despatch containing Lord Yarmouth's recall. If it meets you both on the road, or finds you packing up, there will, of course, be no need of delivering it; but if any thing remains in which you think his continuance can put you to inconvenience, or afford the opportunity for practices such as are in question, you will I hope make no scruple of using it.

"I trust you will be able to bring us something tolerably certain about the plans relative to Portugal. We know no more of Russia. I should think Oubril's treaty will not be ratified purely and simply, but I am not sanguine in my

expectations of much vigour in that quarter.

"The accounts of Fox are in the highest degree favourable, and there really seems room for considerable hope of a permanent cure. Goddard is very sensible of your goodness to him. I know I need not recommend him to your best offices in the event of your coming away. His appointment, which I send herewith, is not quite regular according to our forms, without a commission under the Great Seal; but I should hope it is enough so far for the object in question."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 14. Admiralty.—"I think the subject of Lord Lauderdale's private letters so important, and the necessity of acting on it so immediate, that you cannot with propriety withhold the communication of it from the rest of our colleagues.

"We have just received despatches from Lord Collingwood,

but I have not yet had time to open them."

LORD HOLLAND to THE SAME.

1806, August 14. Holland House.—" As I concluded you must be very busy, I did not like to interrupt you when I was at the Secretary of State's Office to-day; but prefer writing to you on a trifling circumstance relating to the commissioner for American negotiation. It is not, I believe, very usual for peers to be employed in a diplomatic character without being Privy Councillors; and in this instance, it will make a difference in titles and ranks between me and my colleague which, I confess, makes me more anxious about it than I otherwise should be. If, therefore, before the powers are signed, I could be made a Privy Councillor, it would remove this awkward distinction between us. With respect to the other point on which I was anxious, I learn from the Office that it is not unusual on such occasions for each commission to have a secretary, and I am very desirous for Mr. Allen's sake, and more for my own, that he should be included."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HOLLAND.

1806, August 14. Downing Street.—"I had thought of mentioning to you this very thing about the Privy Council yesterday, but it escaped my memory. You cannot be sworn of the Privy Council till Wednesday sevennight, because the King does not come to town earlier; but I will take care of it for that day, and you should also, I think, be then added to the Committee of Trade.

"If you recollect it when you see Sir Francis Vincent, I wish you would desire him to delay the warrant for the commission till after that day. No inconvenience will arise from the delay because your intended appointment has already been notified unofficially to the American ministers, and may be so officially; and you may be conversing generally with them, and applying yourselves to the examination of the different points likely to come in question."

Postscript.—"Whatever we can find a precedent for with respect to Mr. Allen, I need not say I shall be quite ready to think right. I send you enclosed a letter I received yesterday. I have no faith in such medicines, nor in the proposers of them; but I did not like to take it upon mysclf in this case to treat the letter with as little attention as I should in my

own." Copy.

LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 14.—"I wrote in a hurry last night and forgot to answer one part of your note relating to a place at the Board of Trade. As I declined it some time ago when my uncle mentioned it to me, unless any object of Government was answered by my acceptance of it, which I do not conceive can be the case, I had rather decline it; and, at any rate, will thank you not to mention it to Lord A[ucklan]d till I have the pleasure of seeing you. I have written to the Office to put off making out the warrant till after Wednesday."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, August 14. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville thinks it his duty humbly to acquaint your Majesty that the messenger from Paris arrived early this morning. Lord Lauderdale had insisted peremptorily on the original basis of the negotiation, which had been refused by the French government, and Lord Lauderdale and Lord Yarmouth had demanded

their passports, and also a passport for the messenger.

"No answer had been given to this demand for two days, though repeatedly renewed. At length, on Monday, the passport for Basilico was sent, with a note which left it just possible, though very little probable, that the negotiation might be established on the footing insisted on by Lord Lauderdale. In this situation the messenger Basilico was despatched late on Monday night with these particulars, and the next day an answer was to be returned to the French note, stating, in the most explicit terms, the only footing on which your Majesty's Plenipotentiaries were authorised to treat. Lord Grenville trusts that when your Majesty reads the despatches which will be sent at the usual hour to-morrow, your Majesty will be satisfied with the tone and spirit which the negotiation on your Majesty's part has at last assumed.

"Lord Grenville presumes to add to this note a matter of private concern, but in which the long experience he has had of your Majesty's benevolence and goodness leads him to hope that your Majesty will take sufficient interest to pardon

his presumption.

"He has received by this messenger a private letter from Mr. Goddard, acquainting him that Monsieur Talleyrand, being applied to in order that Mr. Goddard may be released from his parole, has answered that this can only be done by Mr. Goddard's being appointed your Majesty's Secretary to the mission at Paris; but that, if such an appointment shall be received even after Lord Lauderdale shall have quitted Paris, Mr. Goddard shall immediately be released from his parole, and allowed to follow Lord Lauderdale, provided the latter shall not actually have left France. This last condition makes the thing so urgent in point of time that Lord Grenville has ventured to send herewith such an appointment for your

Majesty's signature, requesting Colonel Taylor to take such time for laying it before your Majesty in the course of this day, as he shall judge will be least inconvenient to your Majesty, as a few hours sooner or later may decide the question of Mr. Goddard's remaining several years more in the wretched captivity to which he has now so long been subject; and Lord Grenville cannot help flattering himself that your Majesty will pardon this intrusion." Copy.

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, August 14. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to transmit to your Majesty two drafts to Lord Lauderdale and Lord Yarmouth, which were this [day] read at the meeting of your Majesty's confidential servants, and which Lord Grenville has ventured to take upon himself to direct to be despatched this evening; as it seemed desirable that no delay should take place with respect to Lord

Yarmouth's return to England.

"Lord Grenville has seen to-day Lord Granville Leveson, who is just arrived from Petersburg. Judging from the language held to him by the Emperor when he had his audience of leave, Lord Granville Leveson expresses a strong persuasion that Monsieur d'Oubril's treaty will not be ratified. He met the English messenger at Elsineur on the 2nd of August, and as the wind was quite favourable, he has no doubt that the despatches from hence would arrive as soon as Monsieur d'Oubril, if not sooner.

"Lord Granville Leveson will wait your Majesty's orders as to paying his duty to your Majesty at Windsor, or waiting

till your Majesty is next in town." Copy.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. TAYLOR to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 14. Windsor.—"Immediately upon receiving the box for the King, and the accompanying letter from your lordship, I went to his Majesty and read to him the contents, and I have been honoured with his Majesty's commands to return your lordship's thanks for the communication, and to express to you his satisfaction at learning that the negotiation at Paris has assumed the proper tone and spirit, from which, his Majesty charged me to add, that he is confident your further instructions to Lord Lauderdale and Lord Yarmouth will in no instance admit of a departure.

"The King has also signed with much pleasure the appointment for Mr. Goddard, and hopes it will reach Paris in sufficient time to relieve from captivity a person in whose welfare you

express so strong an interest."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, August 15. Dublin Castle.—"On consulting some of the best military authorities here on the subject of new

levies, I find them very apprehensive that the immediate adoption of such a measure would materially obstruct the beneficial influence, which the arrangements of the last session are expected to have on the ordinary recruiting. I must add, too, that all the information which I have been able to procure from those who have the means of forming the best judgment on this point, induces me to think we could not gain the aid from the Catholics as a body, to which you seem to look. If, however, you should decide to make the experiment, I believe regiments would be in many respects preferable to independent companies, and I will endeavour to get a plan of a levy of this nature put a little into shape, so as to be enabled to submit it to your consideration. At the same time I confess myself to be among those who feel most anxious that the ordinary recruiting under the present system should, for a moderate interval at least, have a fair trial.

"I enclose the copy of a letter, which I have received from J. Claudius Beresford. You will also have a letter from the Chancellor, who does not seem to acquiesce in our suggestion of giving the port collection to the Beresfords. Your answer will, I trust, decide the question one way or the other; as it will be impossible to protract the negotiations with the Beresfords much longer. If the latter have not the port collection, I conclude they will entirely break with us.

"The present members for the county of Longford are Sir Thomas Fetherston and Mr. Newcomen. Newcomen has been of late prevented from attending Parliament by ill health, but I have no reason to suppose he is unfriendly to us. Mr. Forbes (Lord Granard's brother) is, I am told, to be the new candidate, and Lord Rosse was reluctantly (as he informed me) prevailed upon by some of the ministers to promise Lord Granard his interest, which, I imagine, will afford Mr. Forbes a good chance of success. Forbes will, I take it for granted, vote with Government, and if he had not its support, I suppose Lord Moira would be heinously offended. I really understood Lord Rosse that you were one of the ministers who had canvassed him for Mr. Forbes.

"Newport will probably return to Dublin in the course of a few days. I am very glad to find I have your sanction for doubting the prudence for accelerating the superannuation of the collectors. The term of service prescribed by the vote of the House of Commons has never hitherto been dispensed with; and if we were now to deviate from the regulation without the intervention of Parliament, we should, I am afraid, expose

ourselves to much animadversion.

"As soon as our new revenue arrangement is set in motion, I propose going to England."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 15. Oxford Street.—"I send you a letter which I received to-day. I should be glad of an early

opportunity of talking over this matter with you, and of closing it, if you think fit; I confess that I still entertain a hope that something might be done.

"I also wish to talk to you on some other points."

Enclosure.

Private. George Canning to Marquis Wellesley.

1806, August 14. South Hill.—" I think it right to mention to you that a communication has come to me through the Bishop of Lincoln, very much of the same tenor with that which I received from you first, about two months ago. The Bishop has not yet written to me (tho' I understand he intends doing so): but, very luckily, to a person—and the only person—with whom I had talked very fully upon the whole subject. Had he happened to select any other channel, it might have led to mistake and confusion.

"The good bishop is in a great bustle, and talks of coming up to town; and going down to Lord G[renville] and so forth; I know not upon what degree of encouragement from Lord Carysfort, whom I understand to be the person from whom

he heard whatever it is that has put him in motion.

"I mention this to you only that such means may be taken, the most effectual and the least offensive to the bishop or to Lord Carysfort, as may put a stop to this mode of discussing matters, which would infallibly give the discussion a publicity equally inconvenient whether it should be to proceed farther, or should already be to be considered as terminated.

"As far as depends upon me I have endeavoured to check the bishop's ardour: but, as I could not tell the extent of my reasons for wishing to do so, perhaps I may not succeed

unless I am aided on the side of Lord Carysfort."

Private. The EARL OF LAUDERDALE to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 16. Paris, 9 p.m.—"About half-past six o'clock I received the despatches from England by the courier Basilico. I had antecedently resolved, as your lordship will see by the public despatch, to send a courier this night. I have nothing now to add to what I have already communicated, except that I have this night seen Hervas's assignee, who tells me that, this morning in conversation, he held the attempt on Spain by a French army cheap, and said he did not believe it.

"Î have delivered the despatch to Lord Yarmouth, who took the thing perfectly well, and declared that his conduct should

be completely guided by my advice.

"In a private letter from Lord Howick there are some things

your lordship would like to see.

"I enclose your lordship a note I have this moment received. It is written by M. Narbonne after dining with Talleyrand. It sufficiently shews the spirit of the French government.

"It is needless for me to mention how much I am flattered by the marked approbation of my conduct, as well as by the handsome manner in which your lordship has conveyed it."

Enclosure.

M. DE NARBONNE to the EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

"Le plaisir que j'ai eu de vous voir a pensé me couter l'exil. J'en suis quitte, sous la condition que je ne vous reverrai que lorsque nous serons un peu plus rapprochés les uns des autres. On m'a dit, en même temps, que le télégraphe avait annoncé un courier pour vous. Peux-je espérer qu'il vous apporte quelques bonnes nouvelles qui me permettent l'espérance de vous revoir. Je ne sais rien que je désire autant, et vous me feriez un vrai bonheur de me faire dire quelque chose sur les nouvelles que vous avez reçues. Jamais, je vous jure, je n'ai été plus attaché à un ennemi."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 16. Eden Farm.—"Mr. Windham has intimated that he will be present at the Office for Trade at one o'clock next Wednesday, chiefly, I believe, on the subject of Prince Edward's Island, which, you possibly may recollect, was not included in our late measure for opening the location of lands in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. I have accordingly desired General Fanning, Mr. Knox, and Mr. Stuart to be forthcoming at the meeting. I do not suppose that it will be possible to obtain your aid even for ten minutes; but Mr. Windham also desires to know what we wish, or mean to do, as to South Wales, as he is sending despatches to the Governor. You approved of our preparing a bill to put that 'rising [illegible word] in a new world,' on the footing of a British colony; and a short bill is proposed accordingly: but the question is connected with many considerations respecting Chinese trade, American intercourse, whale fishery, ship building, East India privileges; and I find neither time nor abilities to bring it to any sudden shape or conclusion.

"Mr. Windham has sent to me some very interesting and well written communications from Mr. Alexander Bell, on a reference which I had requested him to make respecting the free port at Malta as actually existing. His papers strongly encourage the idea that we all entertain that Malta may be made, both commercially and politically, a possession of incalculable value and importance. But the measure for that purpose must not be taken merely from the Office for Trade, but with the accompanying weight of your whole Government, and, in some respects, with the aid and concurrence of

Parliament.

"The importers of figs, raisins, almonds, and cork are very urgent to be permitted to bring some cargoes from Faro in neutral ships. I really do not think that for so trivial an object we should break the law, and offend the shipping

interests; and I mean to maintain a negative, unless you express doubts. Their ground is (and I believe with truth) that they cannot get convoy for British ships from Faro.

"I have taken some pains to put the draft of the new Order in Council for American intercourse into a right shape, and hope upon Wednesday next to hear the report of the Attorney and Solicitor-General thereon. But it will be impossible to consider it as settled till several considerations connected with it shall have been mentioned to you; and even afterwards it will be found that some expressions were admitted into the bill in the House of Commons, of great eventual inconvenience to the necessary supply of the islands.

"I am not sorry that the American negotiation will force forward every part of that business into a new discussion; it certainly was not well understood in the House of Commons

in the last session.

"I shall write to day to Mr. Monro and Mr. Pinckney to propose to them to pass a day with their families at this place. In the mean time the commission will probably have passed the Great Seal, and should be noticed in the Gazette; but it may be very material to engage the attention and suggestions of the intelligent part of our American merchants, and to carry them with us in the whole transaction. I have remanded William from his Highland tour, and, whatever may be the difficulties or result of the business, it will be a creditable debut for him, and may lead him to a competent knowledge both of the rights and claims of neutral nations, and of the nature and bearings of our commercial interests."

Confidential. "The most material of all objects for your early consideration will be the means of conducting the businesses of Government in the House of Commons in some mode less loose and desultory than it was in the last session,

from various untoward circumstances."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, August 17. Admiralty.—"I think it will be satisfactory to you to know that the vessel with our messenger for Petersburgh arrived at Elsinore on the 3rd, and sailed immediately, so that there is every probability of his arriving

before d'Oubril, who left Berlin on the 21st ultimo.

"The Rosario, a sloop sent to reconnoitre Bayonne, Bilbao, and adjacent towns, is returned after having made a very accurate inspection of those ports. The captain reports that there are no vessels collected in any of them capable of conveying any considerable body of men. He confirms the accounts of an army being at Bayonne, and ready to march for the purpose of attacking Portugal; and adds, what I wish may be true, that the Spaniards were preparing to resist them. The intelligence is sent round in circulation."

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 17. Wentworth.—"I am sorry to trouble you with a letter about such a business as a warehouse keeper's place, but as I am going to York races to-morrow, I am sure to find myself in the awkward predicament of having questions put to me by people from Hull, with respect to that place in their custom house, and of being unable to give them any decisive answer upon the subject. I hope you will give it to the person I recommended, or I fear I shall have difficulty in obtaining credit at Hull for having made a sincere application. The gentlemen who have made this supplication through me would not have chosen me as the solicitor of their wishes had they thought that, by immutable usage, the members had the disposal of the whole patronage of Government to the exclusion of its other friends.

"I collect from the newspapers that Basilico is at last returned, but I have heard nothing of the tenor of the

despatches he brought.

"The accounts I receive of Fox are encouraging beyond my expectation; nevertheless one cannot help trembling. The nature of the disorder is frightful."

Confidential. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, August 17. Eden Farm.—"I beg leave to confide to you the enclosure, No. 1. I am a little electrified by the expression which I have marked with a pencil. But I am willing to believe that the word 'joint' means 'sub' or 'assistant,' or possibly from the context that it points indefinitely to some beneficial situation for the gentleman who is mentioned. A joint secretaryship to a diplomatic and confidential commission would be both novel and objectionable; but I could not, at any rate, expect my son to accept an appointment so divested of all distinguishing credit, and that too with a co-partner who is (I make no doubt) respectable and intelligent, but who happens to be quite unknown to all of us.

"Feeling the importance of going through the transaction in question with entire cordiality, both apparent and real, I have thought it best not to ask any explanation, but to put you in possession of the incident; and you will best have it in your power to divert any result that might give a moment's

uneasiness."

Enclosure. LORD HOLLAND to LORD AUCKLAND.

"It gives me real satisfaction to find that you think the employment which this business will give Mr. Eden so useful to him. The warrant is not to be signed till Thursday, nor till next week shall I be able to ascertain whether there is any joint secretaryship or office which will suit my friend Mr. Allen, whom I shall be happy to introduce to you, and whose

knowledge and talents will be of great service to us. Lord Grenville has lent me the American remembrancer which contains all the papers published for and against the treaty of '94 in America. When I have seen through it I will send it to you; but I know of no other pamphlets which are necessary to be read, as those on the neutral questions generally turn on those points where they will be least difference of opinion between us and the United States. I shall be much obliged to you for any papers and accounts."

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, August 18. Phænix Park.—"This morning's mail has brought me your lordship's letter (marked private) of the 14th instant, on the subject of the vacant collectorship of Derry. Since I last wrote to you on this business I have had a long conversation with the Chancellor upon it; but, I am

sorry to add, not a very satisfactory one.

"I foresee but little prospect of this and the other points in discussion between the Ponsonbys and Lord Waterford being brought to an amicable termination; but the Chancellor promised me that he would write to your lordship fully on the subject, which renders it unnecessary for me to enter into any detail of the objections he has urged to the collection of excise being considered as an adequate object to secure or promote the county interests of his family. Much as the Beresfords complain of delay (and I cannot help thinking with some degree of reason on their sides) I shall still think it my duty to defer coming to any determination till I am apprized of what your lordship's sentiments may be, after you have received the Chancellor's letter."

Private. LORD SPENCER to THE SAME.

1806, August 18.—"I saw Dumouriez and his friend Fauche-Borel again on Saturday, and the former gave me the drafts of the letters he proposed to send. I took the whole matter ad referendum, and it will be time enough when you

come to town to show you the papers.

"I saw Prince Castelcicala yesterday, who quoted some correspondence between Fox and Woronzow, from whom he says it will appear that the transfer of that part of the Russian subsidy which applied to the troops employed in the kingdom of Naples, to the Court of Naples, had been agreed upon. I promised to look at the correspondence, which I have desired Sir F. Vincent to look out for me; and I have also desired he would procure an account of the present state of that business at the Treasury; and when I am in possession of these points I am to see Castelcicala again."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, August 19. Dropmore.—"If I hear nothing from Lord Lauderdale to-day, I shall be inclined to prolong my

holidays for another day, and make the most of them while I can. If I am in town to-morrow, I will send to the Council

Office in hopes of seeing you between 12 and 1.

"I continue very anxious that we should have our business, all but the Budget, in a state to be brought forward and carried through before Christmas. The necessity of giving so much of my attention to the business of the Foreign Office is a great drawback upon this.

"No doubt the conduct of the business in the House of Commons must be put into a more regular systematic shape. We had last session to work the machine without its main spring. Lady Grenville and I have proposed to Vansittart to bring Mrs. Vansittart here, either at the end of this or next week. Is there any chance of prevailing upon Lady Auckland and yourself to meet them." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 20. Eden Farm.—"The numbers of Plerion (?) are able; but much of their merit is borrowed from Sir William Scott's 'Decrees,' and Mr. Stephen's pamphlets. It seems to be understood and established that in all cases where proof can be given of what is called a continuous voyage, the forfeiture must take place. But are we prepared to admit the further proposition that cargoes of colony produce bona fide landed and warehoused from French or Spanish possessions, and even become bona fide the property of subjects of the United States, may afterwards be exported from the United States to France and Spain? It appears to me that such an admission would soon become the means of an undisturbed transfer of the produce of hostile colonies to the mother country.

"Mr. Monroc has obligingly sent to me two very large American publications on these subjects. I have not yet had time to open them. He and Mrs. and Miss Monroe, and Mr. and Mrs. Pinckney are engaged to pass the day here on Monday, and I have asked Lord Erskine and Mr. and Mrs. Erskine. It is a sort of assemblage better calculated for the advancement of a good intelligence and a right conclusion than a dozen Cabinet dinners; but I cannot seriously press your lordship and Lady Grenville to support that opinion, and to give us

your presence."

LORD GRENVILLE tO EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, August 21. Downing Street.—"Having indulged myself with a few holidays, I did not receive your letter till it followed me to Lord Buckingham's. I have already apprised you of the very great embarrassment I feel on the subject of the patronage of Hull. I have not, since I saw you here, had an opportunity of communicating with Mr. Thornton

on the subject; and, certainly without that, I could not in honour take any step so injurious to his interests as that

which you so strongly urge.

"It certainly is very painful to me to make the least demur or difficulty in complying with any request of yours. But on the other hand his claims are supported by uniform practice, and by a rule from which I have not hitherto departed in any instance. And I am but too well aware that by doing so in this case, I shall not only in all probability disgust two of our most respectable and steady friends in the House of Commons, but shall also expose myself to all the difficulties which must arise in so many similar cases from the moment that the general rule is broken through, and that the disposal of each separate place of this description is made matter of individual solicitation and preference.

"Âll therefore that I can say on the subject is that I will take an opportunity, as soon as it can be done with convenience, to communicate with him on the subject, and that in the meantime you may rely upon it that no decision shall, without further communication with yourself, be taken hostile to your wishes; which I trust I need not say I must ever feel the strongest desire to consult, even in opposition to my own general practice

and future convenience." Copy.

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 21. Eden Farm.—"If my daughter and Mr. Vansittart should go to Dropmore at the end of this week, it will not be very easy for me to meet them, because I have appointed a meeting with Lord Holland at Mr. Fox's Office for the Saturday morning: and on Monday the American commissioners and their families pass the day at this place. But if the Vansittarts should have settled to wait on you in the end of next week, Lady Auckland and I would have energy enough, with so good an end in view, to drive to Dropmore on the Friday morning (probably in our everlasting sociable) and to stay there if permitted till the Monday morning. At present we have an engagement in this neighbourhood for the Friday; but we could easily postpone it, for the pleasure of waiting on Lady Grenville, and for so good a pretext as that of meeting a daughter.

"I dined yesterday at Holland House for the benefit of the American business, and returned to this place (15 miles) through Norwood at midnight; and there I hope my town dinners

will close till November.

"Lord Holland was very frank and intelligent on the subject of our American enterprise, but seems to think it far easier than I believe it will prove; and not to be sufficiently aware of the expediency of carrying with us, as far as may be practicable, the concurrence and good opinion of the mercantile and shipping interests, the manufacturers, the North American Committee, the East India Company, the West Indian people, and others interested. A few collateral attentions very much break the attacks which will be made in Parliament with great vehemence, whatever may be the contents or merits of any

treaty that can be formed.

"Lord Holland introduced Mr. Allen to me and hoped that 'he might be considered as assistant secretary,' and I think it likely that we shall have ample employment for him. That point being rightly arranged, I shall be very much obliged to your Lordship if you will now give a direction (or speak to Sir Francis Vincent) for the appointment of my son officially, as secretary to the commission. His description is the 'Honorable William Frederic Elliot Eden.' He has received my notice, to his discomfiture, in a party which was very jovial at the Duchess of Gordon's in Scotland, and will come to town immediately.

"You will receive to-night our draft of the order in Council for the American intercourse, together with a copy of the minute made yesterday, when Lord Spencer and Mr. Windham

attended.

"I think that our draft is quite correct, but something must still be done as to eight or ten ports in Jamaica, which have no regular custom-houses. I have stated the point to the Attorney

and Solicitor-General.

"I do not know what your brother will do as to the wish of the East India Company to pay certain service by the novel mode of a direct export of saltpetre from Bengal in an American ship. The worth of the quantity proposed to be sent is about 17,000l. The amount is about equal to the whole of our annual export to the United States; and pro tanto is injurious to our navigation, and in some degree to our revenue, as a duty is retained on the export. I have given all the accounts and particulars to Mr. Grenville."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, August 21. Dublin Castle.—" The Chancellor showed me yesterday a letter, which he proposed sending you on the subject of the collectorship of Derry. I lament to find him so averse from the arrangement proposed, and am afraid that, whatever may be your decision, we shall have much animosity between the Ponsonbys and the Beresfords. In addition to the port collection, the Hills will of course look to the rest of the patronage within the town and port of Derry, and, if you should determine to give them this influence, it would be very desirable that your intentions on this point should be fully impressed in your answer to the Chancellor, otherwise I am apprehensive you will be troubled with an appeal on the appointment to every small office that may become vacant in the city of Derry. If you break off your negotiation with the Beresfords, I suppose you would aid the Ponsonby interest with the patronage both of the city and county. It is

unfortunate that Lord Ponsonby's state of health should have been the means of keeping the Beresfords so long in suspense,

as they will complain bitterly of the delay.

"I expect Newport in a day or two, and I hope the king's letters for the Revenue Boards will arrive soon, as I am anxious to go to England, both for the purpose of personally communicating with you on several points of business, and for the adjustment of some private affairs which press for my presence.

"I am afraid from what we read in the papers, that the negotiation at Paris is taking the most unfavourable turn.

"The accounts we receive of Fox's health are very desponding."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, August 21. Downing Street.—"I have heard nothing from the Chancellor as to the Derry collectorship, and I am very sure nothing I could hear from him would change my opinion of the fitness of the proposed arrangement respecting it, which, unless the Duke of Bedford shall have seen any reason to doubt upon it, I hope ere now have been carried into execution.

"I enclose an ostensible answer to Beresford's letter, which you will use or not as you see occasion. The concluding part refers to an engagement which, as I understand, Lord Waterford has taken to support Lord Castlereagh's interest in the county of Derry. If I am wrong in this, put the letter into the fire.

"I suppose Lord Forbes must now be supported for Longford, but I had heard nothing of his standing till long after it was

openly announced.

"I am impatient to see you here." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 22. Admiralty.—" Pray let me know what you think should be done with respect to the case stated in

the accompanying papers.

"If another messenger should go to Lauderdale, the obvious measure would be to send him copies of Sir Samuel Hood's letter and its enclosures, and to instruct him to make the necessary representations. If he should have left Paris, the mode of communication between the transports and M. de Rivière is so tedious and uncertain, that I wish you to consider in what manner a more direct application could be made to the French government.

"A telegraph message has announced the arrival of the troops

at Plymouth, but they cannot sail with this wind.

"Commodore Owen's letters state that there is an appearance of great activity in the port of Boulogne; that not only a considerable number of vessels have come into the road, but that those remaining in the harbour appear to be

arranged in a more regular order, and that there is an appearance of a greater number of troops in the neighbouring camps."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 22. Arlington Street.—"I was upon my way to you yesterday to mention what your brother may have informed you of, that, not having business enough already in proportion to my bodily and other powers, I am engaging

in a county contest.

"Some persons in Norfolk have determined upon a measure which, I believe, you have not determined upon, namely, a dissolution of Parliament; and upon the strength of that, have begun an active canvass. A friend yesterday came up on purpose from Norfolk with a handbill from Mr. Wodehouse, and various other information, which determined me, after a hasty consultation, to send down an advertisement which required to be immediately decided upon, announcing myself a candidate in opposition to him. It is rather a desperate step, particularly with a view to the new and additional occupation which it must produce; and pretty much so indeed as to possible future consequences. But the stroke was to be struck, if at all, without delay; and as far as can be said of anything of the sort, certainly promises well. I know, though Mr. Wodehouse I should think does not, that Sir Jacob Astley will not offer himself for another Parliament, and that, as far as depends on him, I shall have all his interest. This will be accompanied, as may be concluded, with the whole of Coke's, exerted, as I know it will be, in the best manner; and to those must be added all that I can rescue of my original side from Mr. Wodehouse, and that which I must hope from you, on the part of Government. Such a statement would seem to imply a certainty of success; but one must not be confident in such cases; and, unless it is success without a contest, I shall not consider it as very complete. I don't know that there is much that I have to ask you for at present, at least that I can specifically point out. There may be measures, traced out by established usage, to be resorted to on these occasions; and I think, in the circumstances of the present case, I may safely rely upon your kindness to give them their proper effect."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, August 22. Oxford Street.—"I have settled a plan for seeing Canning at his house in the country, which I think will admit of my calling at Dropmore either on Sunday night or Monday without any difficulty, if it should be convenient to you to see me. Pray let me know if it should not be convenient to you to see me at Dropmore on Sunday or Monday.

"I wish you would contrive to see Sir J. Anstruther before you go out of town, as he leaves town on Tuesday."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, August 22. Downing Street.—"I need not tell you that every thing in my power to do for your service, either as a minister or as a Norfolk freeholder, is entirely at your command.

"As to dissolution, I confess I see no reason that should lead us to take such a step this year; and I have uniformly said, without reserve, to all who have asked me the question, that no such measure was at present in contemplation." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 23. Office for Trade.—"Lord Holland and I have had our first meeting this morning, and have proposed to the American commissioners to proceed to Wednesday

next. They are to be at Eden Farm on Monday.

"In looking into the 12th article of your treaty of 1794, I am led to call your attention to that expression in our proposed Order of Council which restrains the exportation in American bottoms of any sugar, indigo, cotton-wool, coffee, and cocoa. In the first place I believe that the practice exists of carrying these commodities as return cargoes to a limited extent; and in the next the prohibition forces the United States to be supplied by foreign colonies. But some unfortuntate clauses were admitted into the American Intercourse Act, and I know no alternative but to obey.

"I have received your note of last night, and hope that nothing will prevent our waiting on you next Friday (I suppose towards 5 or 6 o'clock) at Dropmore. But though I shall have much to see that is pleasanter than diplomatic discussions, I must try to catch half an hour for various subjects of some nicety, which suggest themselves in this American business."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, August 23. Downing Street.—"I have this morning seen Mr. G. Ponsonby, and learn from him that he expects the Chancellor in England, which is probably the reason of my not having heard from him. I explained to him the intention of dividing the collectorship, to which he objected that in point of value the collectorship of the excise would be considerably below that of the customs. This circumstance I was not apprized of, and I should be glad if any arrangement could with propriety be made on the division of the office for a more equal division of its emoluments. You will, however, do in this respect as you judge best. My opinion on the main question of the division itself, and of the proposed arrangement upon that step, is not at all changed.

"I will enquire into the question you refer to about Mr. Hawthorne, which had escaped my recollection; but, as I may probably not be able to return you an answer on that

point to-day, I was unwilling to delay this letter for it.

"I fear Fox is not going on so well as we had hoped, and that the water is collecting again." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 25. Admiralty.—"There is nothing very material in the accompanying letters, but I thought it might be satisfactory to you to see them. I had understood from Lord St. Vincent that he meant to anchor in Cascaes Bay, but he is, of course, the best judge of the situation to be occupied by his squadron, and his having entered the Tagus will, I hope, be productive of no inconvenience. The intelligence to which he alludes is that which had been communicated by the Saracen to Admiral Hervey, of the movements of the different squadrons in the West Indies. The Acasta on her passage home from the Mediterranean saw a ship of the line on the 13th instant in the latitude of Lisbon, but a good way to the westward. We know of nothing at sea except Jerome's squadron, and the Regulus, which Admiral Cochrane supposed to have joined. If they should attempt the Tagus it will make up for all the vexation and disappointment I have hitherto experienced. The captain of the Saracen told me without any hesitation that if Warren had made the best of his way, he might have been in the West Indies a week sooner."

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to THE SAME.

1806, August 25. Wentworth.—"I have received a letter this morning from a friend of mine, one of the first houses in Leeds, the object of which is to discover if they may risk their trade to Portugal, ships being now loading and preparing to sail early next month. It appears that the merchants have in contemplation a memorial to Government for the purpose of ascertaining the point; but if there would be any inconvenience attending a formal answer to such a requisition (which would presently find its way into the newspapers) I could convey a private opinion, which might get into circulation among the merchants without being liable to the character of an official answer. For this purpose I shall defer answering my friend's letter, till I hear what you wish on the subject, but let me have your orders as soon as possible. I don't know in what state the expedition is; collecting from the papers, I fear the troops are still in the Channel."

Private. The Duke of Bedford to The Same.

1806, August 26. Dublin Castle.—"I think it necessary to apprise your lordship that the Secretary to the Board of Enquiry, Mr. Mitford, being about to retire, the commissioners in whom the appointment to this office lies, have agreed to accept the recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant; and I have, in consequence, named Mr. Babbington, a gentleman at the bar of unexceptionable character, and, as I am informed, well qualified for the office.

"Colonel Vereker was with Mr. Elliot yesterday on the subject upon which he had some communication with your lordship before he left England. Desirable as it may be to oblige Colonel Vereker, there are difficulties in the way of the object he has in view, not readily to be surmounted. To remove Mr. Cockayne from the constableship of Limerick without an adequate compensation would be directly militating against the principle upon which it was agreed that the government of Ireland should be conducted, and upon which we have hitherto invariably acted; and the value of the office being about 400l. per annum, it would not be easy to find an equivalent for Mr. Cockayne."

Postscript. "As soon as you have finally made up your mind on the subject of the Chancellor's letter, it will be very desirable to me to know your decision, as the present state of uncertainty is embarrassing to Government, and unsatisfactory

to all parties."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, August 26. Downing Street.—"I have received the Chancellor's letter. I will endeavour to answer it to-morrow. In the mean time I can only say that I continue to think the division of the collectorship as before proposed, .

the only practicable.

"I have enquired again to-day about the King's letter for the division of the Revenue Boards, and I am assured it was sent from hence to the Irish Office eight days ago; so that the delay since that time is not to be reckoned among the many sins of omission for which the Treasury has to answer.

"I shall be happy to see you when you can come over."

Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 26. Eden Farm.—"I am sorry to be obliged to trouble you with the enclosed papers: but if Mr. Lyon should prove accurate as to the facts, and Messieurs Piggott and Romilly as to the law, the result of our proposed Order in Council may be productive of serious distress to many parts of the island of Jamacia. Mr. Lyon, when he first stated this difficulty at the Office of Trade, explained by a map of the island, that some populous districts of the island must be supplied with lumber and provision at the intermediate harbours between the regular custom houses: that this practice has at all times been pursued under the inspection of a custom house officer, and necessarily, because it is impossible to send the lumber by land.

"I have requested Mr. Stephen Cotterell, who is leaving this place to-day, to send to Mr. Lyon to attend at the Office for Trade to-morrow at one o'clock. But as I suspect that he is at Cheltenham, and as some delay may be requisite for further enquiry, your lordship will perhaps think it best to postpone the order for another week or fortnight, till the points in question can be duly considered. The reason for such postponement will be a sufficient answer to any enquiry that

may arise.

"I have had full and separate conferences with each of the American commissioners, and I do not find that they are to bring forward any propositions beyond those of which we are aware; and they seem desirous to arrive soon at a right and friendly conclusion. But it will be absolutely necessary that I should have the benefit of your sentiments on several of the points before we advance in the discussion."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, August 26. Downing Street.—"The law opinion seems clear and decisive. There is, I think, no other remedy, except that whenever the assembly of Jamaica shall have made provision for the additional expense of more custom houses with their establishments, we will then increase the numbers as fast as they choose. But the experience of the bounty on fish will teach us not to trust to the promises of their agent for meeting this expense." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, August 27. Downing Street.—"So much inconvenience attends the answering enquiries of the nature you describe, by which Government seems to pledge itself for events for which, especially in the period in which we live, it is impossible to answer, that I incline to think it is safer to decline doing so altogether. But it is fit that it should be explained that this refusal proceeds on the general principle which I have described, lest it should create in this particular case a very unfounded alarm. I cannot conceive why the report of our having destined troops to the Tagus should lead our merchants or manufacturers to think their trade with Lisbon less secure than before. But it is surely impossible to explain all this to them without either going into details very unfit to be made public, or taking upon ourselves much more responsibility than naturally belongs to us.

"The expedition is, I trust, now all collected at Plymouth, but it is still detained there by the wind, and we have almost decided to keep them there till we hear from Lisbon. I say almost because the final resolution will not be taken till to-day. The accounts from Lauderdale describe the French at Bayonne to be much less ready than we had been told before." Copy

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 27. Hanover Square.—"Your note finds me engaged in an early dinner at Sir David Wedderburne's in my way to Eden Farm. I will change my plans immediately,

and will come to town to-morrow instead of Friday, and will wait on you in Downing Street at a quarter before one. In truth it is difficult to move further in this American business without knowing your opinion, and without the benefit of your judgment on some points of great difficulty; and it would be an idle attempt to state such points in writing. We shall be obliged to come to some decisions which I believe to be right; but the general prejudices of our countrymen must be managed, otherwise our decisions will be disavowed; and I am not sure that my colleague is sufficiently aware of that danger."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, August 28. Downing Street.—"Lord Landaff will here yesterday to state his claim to the support of his brother for the county of Tipperary. I told him that certainly no hostility to him or his interests was felt by the Government whom, on the contrary, he supported steadily, as I believe, last session; but that I apprehended Government was too far pledged to Mr. Prittie to admit of their assisting Colonel Matthew on this occasion.

"He will, I believe, call upon you when he comes to Dublin to state the same claims; but from what you wrote before,

I presume he can only receive the same answer.

"Who does the Duke think the best person as the next candidate for the Irish Representative Peerage? I think when we talked the subject over in town it seemed to lay between Lord Leitrim and Lord Portarlington. I am not a very good judge of their respective merits, but I should rather think the last might be best, and we should be glad to know your sentiments." Copy.

Private. The Same to The Same.

1806, August 29. Dropmore.—"I enclose a letter from Mr. Lee to Lord Sidmouth. What he states is correctly true, that he offered, at the formation of the administration, his assistance and support, and that it was accepted by me and has since been fairly given. In these circumstances much embarrassment would arise from Government taking any part against him; and I should think the least we could do is to adhere to the general rule of giving him support while he continues in possession, and friendly to us. I am, however, aware that there must be some difficulty in this (especially just now) if it interferes with the Ponsonbys. I have not therefore answered Mr. Lee, nor will till I hear from the Duke or yourself on the subject." Copy.

LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August.—" Mr. Fox thinks it essential that Mr. Erskine should sail for America as soon as possible; and, had he been

able, would have taken all necessary steps for that purpose some time ago. He begs me, therefore, to say that he shall be much obliged to you to give directions to have his credentials and instructions expedited, as it is material he should arrive in America early in the autumn."

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, August 31. Wimbledon Park.—"I have received this morning the enclosed from Lord Moira, to which I only answered that I would transmit it to you.

"Pray let me know whether I may write to the king to night, to tell him he need not come to town this week; as my

plans depend entirely on my knowing this in time.

"From what I heard from Lord Howick yesterday, I fear there is but little chance of our catching Jerome Bonaparte; but the rest of his squadron will, I think, have difficulty in escaping without meeting some of ours."

Enclosure.

THE EARL OF MOIRA tO EARL SPENCER.

Saturday.—"The Prince is very anxious about the delay as to the baronets whom he had recommended; and as Fox cannot move in the business, the task of remembrancer must be mine. Can you give me any information with regard to the time when the next batch may be expected."

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 1. Phœnix Park.—" I have lately received a letter from my friend Lord Charles Somerset which induces me to call your lordship's attention to his situation, which is

really one of hardship and compassion.

"I am perfectly aware that Lord Charles has no immediate claims on the present Government; but when I recollect the decided approbation he gave to the formation of the administration, and the warm anxiety he manifested to induce his family to give it their full and cordial support; and when I am informed that his brother's favour and protection are withdrawn from him, because he refused to oppose in Parliament, through the last sessions, measures which his conscience and his judgment approved, I feel persuaded that the justice of your lordship's mind will acknowledge that some consideration may in fairness be due to him.

"As this is a case of a man of rank and family, looking to the means of support, I am aware that it may be difficult to point out what can be done for him; and perhaps his profession is the only source to which he can now look for an improvement of income, with any degree of confidence. His Royal Highness the commander-in-chief gave him reason to hope that he might replace Lieutenant-General Sincoe on the staff in England, but in that he was disappointed. A warrant to hold

one of the gold sticks, vacant by the absence of Lords Harrington and Catheart, would, I believe, lead to an appointment on the staff; and if this could be done for Lord Charles, I have reason to believe that it would prove satisfactory to

the King and to the Prince of Wales.

"Your lordship will, I am persuaded, readily excuse my troubling you on a subject so wholly unconnected with any thing belonging to the usual course of our correspondence, when I inform you that a friendship of many years standing with Lord Charles Somerset, together with a knowledge of all the unfortunate circumstances attending his situation, make me most solicitous to serve him."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, September 1. Dublin Castle.—"I was well acquainted with Colonel Hardy, both in his capacity of an active and meritorious officer in Ireland, and in that of a diligent

Inspecting Field Officer of yeomanry in Surrey.

"He is a person for whom I should be glad to accomplish a provision, but I am not aware of anything which can be done for him. His object, when I was in London, was a pension, which, I need not mention, is impracticable; and even if the Lord Lieutenant had the means, there are services unrewarded which claim attention before those of Colonel Hardy.

"The King's letters for the new Revenue Boards have been here some days, and the patents are prepared, and will in the

course of two or three days pass the Great Seal."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, September 1. Dropmore.—"I have no doubt that Mr. Babington will be in all respects a perfectly proper Secretary for the Irish Commission of Enquiry. You can best judge what can be done about Mr. Vereker. It would certainly be desirable to oblige him, but I perfectly feel the difficulties attending his request.

"I see no reason to doubt of the propriety of the decision as to the collectorship of Derry, and the sooner the business is terminated the better I think it will be for us all." Copy.

Private. C. Goddard to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 1. Paris.—"I know the satisfaction it will give your lordship to learn that your kind attention in hastening my appointment has had it's full success, and that I am entirely restored to my liberty. I enclose a copy of M. de Talleyrand's letter to me on this occasion.

"The first use I wish to make of my freedom is to put myself entirely at the disposal of your lordship whenever this mission shall have an end; and it is with this view that I have taken the liberty of enclosing a letter for your lordship

on my own situation, which you will, perhaps, have the goodness to look into, in a moment of leisure. At the time of writing it I concluded we were on the eve of our departure, nor am I yet of a very different opinion with respect to the length of our stay here. At all events the mission here cannot be a long one; and it would, in every respect, be the kindest thing that could be done for me to save me even for this winter from the idleness of a London or even of a country life in England. It is on this account that I have not delayed sending the enclosed, notwithstanding the event of the conference of Friday, which seems to afford a possibility of some

arrangement with this country.

"Lord Lauderdale, seeing that I had a large letter to send to your lordship, and on which I had marked private, might suppose, I thought, that I had entered into the subject of what is passing here, which I have conceived it became me to avoid. In order to obviate any supposition of the sort, I told him that the enclosed was a letter to your lordship on my private affairs, and relative to my wishes for employment whenever this mission should be at an end. This led to some conversation on the subject, which he ended by saying that, though he was satisfied it would be unnecessary for him to attempt to give weight to any application from your lordship if you should think proper to make it, yet that he should feel himself happy to be of use to me with Mr. Fox if I wished it, and would state to him my precise views; and that as soon as he knew Mr. Fox to be well enough to read the letter himself, and the mission here should evidently be drawing to a conclusion, he would write to him in the sense of the enclosed paper, which I draw up for the purpose of submitting it to your Lordship's judgment. I need not say that, as Lord Lauderdale will do nothing on this head until I again speak to him, I shall wait your lordship's directions and submit myself to them entirely. Lord Lauderdale certainly overrates any little service I may be of here; but, in case your lordship should think it proper, at a convenient season, to interest yourself towards my obtaining such an appointment as I wish, I conceive it might not be amiss that Mr. Fox should be prepared by Lord Lauderdale in the way he is so good as to propose. Lord Lauderdale is indeed most perfectly friendly and obliging in the whole of his conduct; and I should therefore have the less scruple in owing him this additional obligation, if your lordship see no objection.

"It being Basilico's turn to-night, I have thought it safest, for fear of accident, to keep the vase for Shaw, who is next in turn, and by whom it shall certainly be sent. I send by this opportunity the Buffon in duodecimo, in sheets. If there should be any deficiency, as will sometimes happen, it shall be rectified immediately on my being apprized of it. Lacepèdés Fish, which are added, are in high esteem here. The whole forms 71 volumes.

"I sent by Lord Yarmouth, under your lordship's cover, Mr. Wynn's books, which I conclude have been received. If not, he will be so good to send to Lord Yarmouth's house for an oil cloth package, with your lordship's direction."

Postscript.—"I think it right to mention that, in stating Lord Lauderdale's obliging offer respecting me, I have very much softened the strength of his expressions; as I feel I do not deserve them any otherwise than by my good will; but it will depend on me to give the turn I please to this, whenever I know your lordship's opinion."

Enclosure.

CHARLES MAURICE DE TALLEYRAND, PRINCE DE BENEVENTO, to C. GODDARD.

1806, August 25. Paris.—" J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que sa Majesté m'a autorisé à vous declarer que l'engagement qui vous liàit avant le dernier voyage que vous avez fait en Angleterre, n'existe, sa Majesté avant bien voulu consentir à ce que la parole d'honneur que vous aviez donnée vous fût rendue. Je suis charmé d'avoir à vous annoncer une détermination à laquelle son Excellence my lord Grenville a paru prendre un véritable intérêt, qui a été vivement reclamée par son Excellence M. de Comte de Lauderdale comme lui étant personnellement agréable, et qui vous offre la faculté de donner, selon votre gré, des marques de votre zèle ainsi que de votre dévouement au service de votre souverain. Je vous prie de recevoir l'assurance de ma parfaite consideration." Copy.

Private. VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 1. Admiralty.—"I send you two letters which I have just received from Lord St. Vincent. To the application for the Queen's bounty you will be so good as to

furnish me with an answer.

"We yesterday received letters from Sir John Warren, dated the 6th and 7th, from the Bay of Bulls, Newfoundland, from whence, by a subsequent account from Sir Erasmus Gower, it appears that he sailed again on the 9th, meaning to cruise ten days on the banks of Newfoundland, and then to come home, touching at the Western Islands. By a comparison of dates it appears that he must have crossed before Jerome, who separated from the rest of his squadron after having cruised eleven days in the gulph stream, off Charles Town. Warren had received no information whatever respecting them, except that they were three Danish ships which Cochrane had mistaken for a reinforcement, from the time of his leaving Tortola. It will be too hard if he comes away and leaves Williamson behind to attack our fishery after he is gone. There will, however, even in that case, be some hope from Sir Richard Strachan, who would arrive at Barbadoes about the 5th of this month, My conjecture is that the French

squadron, if they are not bound for Europe, will go either into the Chesapeake or to Boston."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 1. Whitehall.—"Your perusal is much wanted to the enclosed application for a licence to send a neutral ship with British manufactures and certain Spanish articles to Lima, and Conception de Chili, with passports and powers from the Spanish government to make the voyage and bring back a return cargo, together with all the British prisoners, (from two to three hundred). The points for hesitation are: (1) that the vessel outward bound is to touch at Cadiz; (2) that she is to carry 4,000 quintals of quicksilver; (3) that she is to bring back two millions of dollars to the account of the Spanish government (paying a freight of five per cent). have appointed Mr. Cock and Mr. Gregory to meet me at the Office for Trade on Wednesday or Thursday, as this morning must be given up to the American business at Mr. Fox's Office. I incline to think that it may be right to accede to the proposition, the objections to which may be lessened in adjusting the specification of the cargo.

"The other annexed paper relates to Prince Edward's Island. The report thereon from Mr. Windham is before the Treasury. It was prepared by Mr. Gordon for Lord Camden, and on full materials from the Office for Trade, and did not appear to Mr. Windham and me liable to difficulties. But there is a question further in Mr. Knox's view as to the application of the quit-rent arrears for the improvement of the colony. I have told him that he cannot have an answer before

Wednesday or Thursday next.

"I presume that twelve o'clock will not be inconvenient to you on Thursday for the Sierra Leone businesses. The Bishop of London and Mrs. Porteus come on that day from Sundridge to Eden Farm, so that I shall be desirous to escape

from Whitehall about two o'clock.

"I am willing to hope that the American treaty will not get into great length; but I have employed Mr. Eden to keep a full detail and diary of the whole proceeding, and of all the objects and discussions as fully as if we were reporting to a Sccretary of State from day to day. It will at least do good to him respecting all the great considerations of neutral privileges and commercial rights and interests. I am convinced that, as to the West India trade, we cannot go beyond the seventy tons (as in your article); and it may be doubted even whether we should go so far in times of peace."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, September 2.—"Among many things which press, nothing presses so much as the enclosed paper from Mr. Barham relative to the Chinese business, which I should be

so glad to see dispatched, principally on account of its own importance, but partly with a view to complaints which Barham has made, unreasonably I think hitherto, of having been kept too long in suspense, that if no messenger should be going to you, I shall send one on purpose, in order that you may have time to turn the matter in your mind, and come to a decision upon it, if possible, by the time of your being in town to-morrow. The packet may then be detained till Thursday, and time given to Mr. Barham to send his letters,

one way or another.

"My own inclination is strongly to close immediately with one or other of his proposals; and as he prefers, if I understand him right, the assistance to be given of the two vessels, rather than the contract of so much per head, I should be for ordering without delay two such vessels to be engaged and prepared. The difference may not be much in point of expense, and in that case it may be desirable to adopt the mode more conformable to the wishes of the parties. The chief difficulty, in either case, would seem to be the securing to the Chinese a due performance of the contract made with them; considering that the character of the Government would be in some degree implicated, particularly in the way recommended by Mr. Barham, and certainly the future and final success of the experiment.

"Some provision might be necessary that, at the expiration of the term contracted for by the Chinese, the other party (Mr. Barham and Company) should engage for the allowance of a certain sum to as many as choose to go, to defray the

expense of their voyage back.

The plan opens, in case of success, such a delightful prospect, and the present opportunity seems so favourable for trying it, that I should be for commencing it immediately, even though there may be some subordinate points for which it might have been desirable to have a little longer time for consideration. A vessel of one thousand tons for twelve months will cost no more than 9,000l. at fifteen shillings per ton; which is perhaps more than the real freight. A cutter of eighty tons at the same rate for eighteen months would be 1,080l., making together 10,080l.; while five hundred persons at 20l. per head would be just 10,000l.; so that the expense of the two ways to Government would be, as nearly as possible, the same. I think in either way the engagement might safely be made; and I must confess I should be sorry if, by deferring it, we risked what I take to be a very advantageous opportunity.

"The difference of expense in the case of the Ceylon corps, or others of that description, is all in favour of keeping them

on the colonial establishment.

"The enquiry which you suggest, and which shall be made, about the revenues of the Cape and Ceylon, recalls a matter which I have meant from time to time to mention to you; I mean the appointments at the Cape which I have been

filling up, but have forborne to complete, least I should touch upon any to which claims exist, or may be supposed to exist at the Treasury. Though all the appointments at the Cape were, in point of fact, filled up in Lord Melville's time by him, yet I know that he had ways of doing things which others have not, and that he might very possibly get into his hands by management, what did not of right belong to him. Of this sort I have been led to believe, according to the information which I have hitherto received, were the three appointments, very considerable ones, of comptroller, collector, searcher of the customs; which, as performing functions blended with those of the Custom House, would naturally belong to the Custom House, that is to the Treasury. But the case is not the same with the auditorship, of which I am told Alexander has been talking, which would only be connected with the Treasury by name, the functions of the office being wholly confined within the settlement, and the auditor nothing but an intermediate officer between the Governor and the departments under him, and having nothing to do with any department here. The case of that office is therefore, I believe, perfectly clear; and, if I have forborne to fill it up or to name it to the Prince (it is a friend of his for whom I have intended it) it has been merely ex abundanti, and because I would not prejudge a question on which there would be any doubt. The others, I am much afraid, will turn out to belong to you.

"Our measures respecting recruiting are at length in train, and near being brought to a conclusion. I wait for the observations of the Duke on a paper which I put a good while since into his hands; but he promised them to [me] lately in a few days, and the points that may be to be discussed between

us cannot, I think, last long."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, September 4. Downing Street.—"Lest it should escape me when we meet, I take the liberty to mention in this manner that you would much oblige me by expressing to Mr. Eden how happy it would make Lady Grenville and myself if he can join our Dropmore party.

"A messenger came from Lord Lauderdale last night and will probably be redespatched to-night, so that I can now look with confidence to the pleasure of receiving you and the

Vansittarts to-morrow."

Private. The Same to the Earl of Lauderdale.

1806, September 4. Downing Street.—"Your last despatch would have excited some hope in my mind that your mission might be productive of more good than has lately appeared probable, if there were not so much reason to believe that the change of language has no other object than that of detaining

you at Paris. There is certainly much opinion prevalent in the north of Germany that matters are coming to an extremity between France and Prussia. I own, I cannot well conceive what motive can really, in the present state of the Prussian councils, animate that Court to resistance. But

some shew of it there undoubtedly is.

"Since this was written we have received the intelligence that Russia has refused to ratify the treaty, and that on the 16th ultimo, a note to that effect was circulated to all the foreign Ministers resident at Petersburgh. We also hear that Lucchesini is recalled from Paris at Bonaparte's desire, and that a man of very inferior talents, a M. de Knobelsdorff, is to succeed him. If this could have the effect of really indisposing Lucchesini against France, his influence at Berlin might do much.

"The next mail will undoubtedly bring us a Russian messenger, and by him, I trust, we shall learn on what terms Russia is disposed to insist. Probably Calabria, or Sicily, or both will be made conditions sine quā non. Of course this must a little suspend your progress. Is it not possible that this event was known at Paris before your last conference?

If not known, it must at least have been expected.

"You shall hear from us again the very first moment that we can say any thing more particular about the demands of Russia. But I think it most probable that a Russian Minister will be sent to Paris immediately, in which case I need hardly say how important it will be that you should cultivate him as much as possible, and should give us the earliest account of his intentions and proceedings." Copy.

Private. The Same to The Same.

1806, September 4. Downing Street.—"I am commanded by his Majesty to inform your lordship that he is pleased to approve entirely the conduct you have held in the circumstances detailed in your last despatches, and to express his Majesty's satisfaction in the good effect which appears to have

resulted from it.

"It is proper however to remark that as the French Plenipotentiaries have not bound themselves as yet by any written note, nor have as yet, even in conversation, agreed to replace the negotiation on its true basis, the present appearances of greater facility on their part may probably arise only from their desire of keeping your lordship at Paris untill he answer from Petersburg shall be received; an object which your lordship's last note had shewn them they could no longer accomplish without some departure from the ground on which they have hitherto stood.

"As to the points which might come into negotiation, the terms stated by your lordship would undoubtedly be ultimately sufficient for the separate interests of Great Britain, as in fact they include all we possess, and all we have

asked, with the exceptions only of Ste. Lucie and Goree, possessions certainly too unimportant to be rested upon as grounds for the continuance of war. This is however said only on the supposition that the French offers were so expressed as to comprehend all the French and Dutch Settlements on the continent of India, as well as Pondicherry, which alone is named.

"The only questions then remaining to be considered would be those which related to our allies. Of these Portugal, Sweden, and Sardinia would probably create no difficulty. It is presumed that France will not object to guarantee to us the integrity of the two former and to leave the island of Sardinia to its lawful sovereign under such an arrangement and connection with England as is pointed out in your lordship's former instructions.

"The two questions as to Russia and Naples are in some

degree connected with each other.

"If the Russian treaty be ratified (a fact which must be known at Paris before this despatch is received there) this country is bound by no further obligation to Russia which can at all embarrass his Majesty, or prevent him from consulting exclusively the honour and interests of his own crown in any further negotiations with France. It must still however be considered, even in that case, what degree of attention may be due to his Sicilian majesty. The entire burden of protecting and recovering that prince's dominions cannot reasonably be cast exclusively on Great Britain. His Majesty is not bound to that effect by the terms of any treaty concluded either with his Sicilian majesty or with an other power; nor can it be fairly contended that so very onerous and unequal an engagement is in any manner the implied result of the plans which were in contemplation, or the measures which were executed in the course of the last year.

"In the present state of the Continent this country, abandoned by every continental power, cannot reasonably hope to recover Naples by arms, and in this state of things to insist on the restoration of that kingdom as the sine qua non condition of peace would be a decision inconsistant with every idea of peace, and the admitted principle of the negotiation. Nor indeed can we, after what has passed, reasonably refuse to treat for the purpose of ascertaining whether an adequate and acceptable compensation could be made to his Sicilian majesty for the cession of Sicily, of which he is still in possession. But his Majesty cannot, on the other hand, be expected to bind himself to the cession, or even to the abandonment of that island, except in two cases; (1) that of his Sicilian majesty's actual consent; or 2ndly, that of such an offer made to him as he ought in reason and justice to consider as an equivalent. And this last point is one of too much delicacy to be finally decided on, without at least communicating it previously to him.

"As to the mode and terms of such compensation, your lordship is well justified in the remark that the suggestion of these ought to proceed from France. As a part of the general uti possidetis Sicily would remain to its sovereign. If France wishes to alter this point by exchange or compensation, it is for her to shew in what manner this can be done, and for his Majesty to consider, either separately or jointly with his ally, whether to accede or not to such a proposal.

"At all events the compensation to be given in such a case must come, not from his Majesty's conquests but from the possessions of France or her allies; and it is therefore for her to specify which of these she is willing to give for an object so very important to her; a choice which it cannot be expected that his Majesty's government should be able to anticipate.

"If the Russian treaty shall not be ratified, his Majesty is then (as I have already observed to your lordship) replaced with respect to the Emperor of Russia in the same situation as before the signature of M. d'Oubril's treaty; but with the additional tye which the two Courts would in that case feel from the fresh proof each will have given to the other of a steady adherence to the system of alliance. And it will then be necessary that our peace shall be so far made dependent on that of Russia as is pointed out in the instructions originally given to Lord Yarmouth with that view; and particularly that the wishes and intentions of that Court shall be principally consulted in the arrangements respecting the Mediterranean and Adriatic, in every instance where this can be done consistently with the good faith which this country owes to its allies." Draft. Holograph.

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, September 5. Downing Street.—"I have been making some enquiries about what you mention respecting the different offices at the Cape connected with the departments of revenue accounts and finance, and I have not the least doubt that you will be satisfied there is no pretence for their being appointed from the Secretary of State's Office. I have directed a regular report to be made to me on the subject, in order that you may see yourself the grounds on which the

"The whole indeed depends on nothing else than a job of Dundas's who, in order to get all this patronage into his own hands, instead of leaving it to be applied for the general purposes of Government, kept the whole thing perfectly secret, did not appoint the officers here (for which he knew there could be found neither precedent, plea, nor even any official form in which it could be done) but settled by a private understanding with the Governor that they should be named there, which is directly in the teeth of the rule uniformly laid down and observed, by which the Governor is prohibited from

making any such appointment.

"This extends not only to the question of agent, which is gone by, but, if possible, still more strongly to the auditorship, collectorship, and other similar offices, to which the Treasury never permit a governor to appoint in any case. I am sure you will yourself be fully satisfied, when you come to inform yourself on the question, that neither duty nor a sense of what I owe to myself and to the Government can allow me to acquiesce in such a precedent." Copy.

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 5. Wimbledon Park.—"I failed of seeing Mr. Staniforth, as I had promised to do, before he went out of town, and I now enclose you a letter he has sent to me to forward to you. My under-secretary, Beckett, is intimately acquainted with him; and he tells me that both he and Thornton are very earnest about this point, but that he rather collected that it might perhaps be possible to bring it to this sort of compromise, namely, that the two members would engage to provide in some other way for Lord F[itzwilliam's] protégé if he would give up this appointment; as they state that the person recommended is a gentleman's servant, and not a fit person for such a place. A compromise, however, will, I am afraid, be difficult in a case where the two parties have directly opposite views.

"This non-ratification of the treaty puts our negotiation again on its original ground, and the terms which, from Adair's letter, appear to be held out by the Emperor of Russia as his *ultimatum*, agree so much with ours, that I conclude we shall now be obliged to suspend any further progress in our negotiation till the arrival of another Russian negotiator, who, I hope, may be of a better sort than M. d'Oubril. What influence all this will have upon Prussia yet remains to be seen. All the accounts from thence indicate a greater disposition to hostility with France than one should have expected; but Hanover will, I fear, stand much in the way of our obtaining any thing like Prussian co-operation."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to EARL SPENCER.

1806, September 5. Dropmore.—"I have answered Mr. Staniforth's letter by desiring to see him. I heartily wish I could compromise the matter, but I really am in despair about it, because I feel myself in some degree obliged to support Lord Fitzwilliam, and am at the same time quite clearly of opinion that he is entirely in the wrong.

"Before I went out of town this morning I read Adair's despatches, which are highly satisfactory. In writing a private letter to Lauderdale last night I had exactly anticipated their contents except as to the compensation to the King of Sardinia. I also drew the sketch of an answer to Adair, and of a letter to Stuart which I to the second contents of the sketch of an answer to Adair, and of a letter to Stuart which I to the sketch of the sketch o

of a letter to Stuart, which I trust you will approve.

"I really think this event gives us the only chance we could have had of a tolerable peace; but I shall be impatient to hear from Stuart, and to see exactly what course Russia pursues, whether she sends a fresh Minister to Paris or treats through us.

"Have you ever heard anything more of McKenzie?" I really think some of the removals ought now to be

made." Copy.

Private. VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 6. Admiralty.—"I send for your information a letter which I have received to-day from Lord St. Vincent, and also the letters brought by the Race Horse from Lord Collingwood. I wish you particularly to attend to what the latter says of Sir Sidney Smith. As you seemed much interested about him, I would on no account make any change in the command of the squadron appointed for the defence of Sicily, without your approbation; but I must confess that in my opinion it will be necessary to do so. To make it as little unpleasant as possible to Sir Sidney I should propose that Sir John Duckworth, upon his joining Lord Collingwood, should be ordered to proceed to Sicily. The command is of sufficient extent and importance for a Vice-Admiral with a junior flag officer under his orders; and by this arrangement Sir John Duckworth might be depended upon for the care of the squadron, and the full benefit of Sir Sidney's enterprising spirit obtained by employing him,

when necessary, or detached services.

"Since writing the above I have read the despatches from Lord Strangford. They appear to me of great importance in every view, but particularly so with respect to the communication made by the Court of Madrid. I am not very sanguine in my hopes of exciting that government to shake off the yoke of France; but no chance, however small, which might by any possibility lead to the accomplishment of so desirable an object should be neglected. As in all probability the first despatches received from Lord Rosslyn will confirm the accounts given by M. D'Arango of the state of the preparations of France and Spain, as directed against Portugal, it becomes a question under the present circumstances of the war, and with the prospect of a renewal of active hostilities on the borders of the Adriatic, whether the troops originally destined for Sicily, or at least a part of them, should not immediately be sent there. I wish this matter to be determined as soon as possible on account of the convoy, as I should wish to take advantage of the reinforcement intended for Lord Collingwood for that purpose. I am afraid he is very impatient, and with some reason, and it will be wrong to detain the ships so long promised him.

"I enclose also a letter from Admiral Cochrane respecting Miranda, and the copy of one from Captain Durham. The squadron he mentions Admiral Hervey to have chased, must,

I think, certainly have been that of Williamson.

"Be so good as to return the letters I now enclose, as well as those I last sent you from Lord St. Vincent, by the messenger to-morrow."

LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 6. Holland House.—"Lord Auckland will give you a detailed account of all that has hitherto passed with the American commissioners. It is clear that the main points are the not pressing seamen on the high seas, and the question of a continuous or interrupted voyage. Unless they misrepresent things in America, they would willingly yield a point on the latter to obtain anything from us on the former. Lord A[uckland] has with him two abstracts of the result of our conversations with Monroe and Pinkney on these two subjects, and of the hints and suggestions which have been thrown out by ourselves. He probably does not want them, but they may possibly refresh his memory and bring the subject before your mind by seeing it discussed in writing. My uncle's illness has so occupied my thoughts that I fear I have not had time to sift the whole question as I ought; but I am confident that good humour and goodwill are only to be purchased by very considerable concessions on one or both of these points; and I believe Lord A[uckland] concurs with my opinion.

"The weakness subsequent to my uncle's second operation has been less than it was upon the first, but infinitely more than, from his improved health, we were led to hope. This has thrown him back, but he is rallying. It is idle however to indulge any hope of more than a slow and anxious recovery, and we shall all think ourselves very fortunate if that be achieved. In the meanwhile, one cannot talk to him of any business in detail, which makes me more anxious to trouble

you with these statements."

Private. C. Goddard to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 7. Paris.—"I was very sensible to your lordship's early and kind answer to my letter. Having thus placed myself in your lordship's hands, I feel perfectly easy about the rest, in so far as my personal concerns are in question.

"Lord Lauderdale has been very seriously affected by the accounts of Mr. Fox, so very different in their nature from what former intelligence had led us to hope for. A letter from Mrs. Fox is indeed of a more consoling kind; but it is

to be feared she flatters herself.

"We have to-day MM. Talleyrand, Champagny, Clarke, Metternich and Lima, with other persons of less note, to dine here. All those named except Talleyrand had already dined with us; but the latter expressed a desire to be invited on this

occasion. The fear of coming here in all those who are at all connected with this government, and are not in commanding situations, is sometimes expressed in a most comical manner. Metternieh has probably had permission from this emperor; for there is no detail into which Bonaparte does not enter, and until within these few days Metternich was afraid to see Lord Lauderdale. Lima is a known spy of Talleyrand's, who procured this situation for him; and Lord Lauderdale tells him accordingly whatever he wishes Talleyrand should know indirectly.

"I take the liberty of enclosing on a separate paper a note, in case your lordship should think proper to give any direction about it. As coming from hence directly, it would

probably not be attended to in the Office.

"I should be happy to hear that the second vase arrived safe. It was sent by Basilico the 1st instant."

The Earl of Lauderdale to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 8. Paris.—"My separate despatch will inform you of the reason of my sending a courier to England. Lima is quite a creature of Talleyrand's, but it appeared to me that a written report of the Emperor's declaration in relation to Portugal, such as he described it to be, was a thing the Government of England would like to receive; not as adding to the security of Portugal, but as furnishing an authentic document of the treachery of this Court, in the event of things going wrong.

"I have not yet seen the note. Indeed I have not a doubt that it will be submitted to the inspection of Talleyrand before

it comes under my eye.

"I enclose your lordship a separate sheet recently published as a supplement to the first edition of Le Sage's Historical, Geographical, and Statistical Tables. Of this work, which is universally relied on for information in all the public Offices here, there is a new edition; but I believe, though I have not yet examined it, that the sheet I send contains nearly all the alterations and additions.

"I have stated to Lord Howick all I have heard about the

Veteran, which, I have no doubt, is destroyed.

"Lucchesini had his audience of leave yesterday. It continued an hour and a quarter. Knobelsdorff had a very short interview."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, September 8. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit to your Majesty the minute of the Cabinet held this day on Lord Lauderdale's last despatches, in order that, if your Majesty should be graciously pleased to approve of it, instructions may be transmitted to Paris and Petersburgh in conformity to these ideas." Copy.

Enclosure.

CABINET MINUTE.

1806, September 7. Downing Street.

Present:

The Lord Chancellor.

Lord Privy Scal.

Earl Spencer.

Viscount Howick.

Lord Henry Petty.

Mr. Windham.

Mr. Grenville.

Lord Grenville.

"It is humbly submitted to your Majesty that instructions should be sent to the Earl of Lauderdale apprizing his lordship that the refusal of the Emperor of Russia to ratify M. D'Oubril's treaty has replaced this country and Russia in the situation in which they stood previous to the signature of that treaty. That his Majesty is therefore willing to discuss separately, as before, the terms of peace as far as they can affect the particular interests of this country. But that he cannot finally conclude peace without the participation of Russia in some one of the modes pointed out in Mr. Fox's despatch to the Earl of Yarmouth of the 26th of June, 1806.

"That with respect to the interests of Great Britain his Majesty adheres to the basis originally proposed, that of

the *uti possidetis*, with the restitution of Hanover.

"That this *uti possidetis* must, however, now include Sicily. His Majesty had originally instructed Lord Yarmouth to insist definitively on this point, which was included in the original French offer. And it was only on the impression that a relaxation on this point was desired by Russia that his Majesty ever consented to admit the discussion of such ideas of compensation for that island, as might be proposed by France. It now appears, on the contrary, that the Emperor of Russia considers the preservation of Sicily by the King of Naples as a *sine quã non* condition of his peace. It must therefore, on both these grounds, be insisted upon on the part of this country.

"It is further humbly submitted that the force originally destined for Sicily should proceed there as soon as the wind

permit." Draft by Lord Grenville.

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 8. [Wimbledon Park.]—"As I shall probably see you to-morrow, in consequence of the dispatch just arrived from Lord Lauderdale, I will only write this line to you to say that we have had a satisfactory answer from Colin Mackenzic, who will, I hope, in consequence of it, come to London almost immediately. However, I agree with you in thinking that some if not all of the removes should be made without further delay.

"I will not fail to dine with you on Tuesday."

Postscript.—"I send you Colin's letter, and Lady Stafford's about it.

"Lord Howick called here this morning, and he, Tom, and I, all agreed that we ought now, without a moment's loss of time, send some troops direct to Sicily, and some instructions for the purpose of getting out of the scrape which Sir J. Stuart's proclamations have drawn us into.

The accounts from Lisbon are (as I understand from Lord

Howick) such as very much to justify this measure."

GEORGE III to THE SAME.

1806, September 9. Windsor Castle.—" The King decidedly concurs in opinion with his Cabinet that after the handsome line of conduct which has been pursued by the Emperor of Russia, it is impossible to do otherwise than revert to the footing in which this country and Russia stood previous to the signature of the treaty by Monsieur d'Oubril. His Majesty equally approves that part of the proposed instructions by which Sicily is to be included in the *uti possidetis*, without admitting any offer of compensation.

"The King is sensible of Lord Grenville's attention in apprising him of the melancholy state of Mr. Fox's health."

Private and confidential.

The DUKE OF BEDFORD to THE SAME.

1806, September 9. Dublin Castle.—"I was in hopes that I should not have had to trouble your lordship again on the subject of the Derry collection, but unfortunately we appear at this moment to be as far from our object as ever. Immediately upon receipt of your last letter I wrote to the Chancellor acquainting him with your decision, and your wish that it should be carried into effect without further delay. By the arrangements proposed by Sir John Newport for the division of the collection, together with the addition of the small collectorship of Ballyraine to that of the excise for Derry, the emolument of the two offices is made nearly equal; and the Chancellor, upon the whole, scemed not unsatisfied with your determination. In consequence of this, Mr. Elliot was on the point of making the long asked for communication to Mr. Beresford, when the Chancellor received a letter from England which induced him to make an earnest request that all further proceedings might be suspended for a short time longer. I could not refuse to accede to this request, but I took an opportunity of seeing the Chancellor, and pressed upon him your lordship's anxious wish that this long depending business should be brought to a conclusion in the manner you suggested. He dealt upon your not replying to his letter as indicating something like an indifference on the subject; but I am persuaded that the sole cause of his having hitherto received no answer from your lordship is the expectation you entertained of sceing him so soon in England. As the Chancellor sailed last night, and as he assured me that he would lose no time in endeavouring to see your lordship on his arrival in London, I have only to express my hope that I shall hear from you finally on this too long protracted business as soon as you have had an opportunity of fully discussing it with him. I am inclined to think that the Chancellor is not so adverse to a good understanding with the Beresfords, as others of his family."

Postscript.—"Since writing the above Mr. J. C. Beresford has been with me by appointment (in consequence of a note he wrote yesterday to Mr. Elliot, expressing some degree of impatience at the delay) and states his readiness to wait till

I hear again from your Lordship."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, September 9. Downing Street.—"I have acquainted Lord Sidmouth that we stand pledged to Mr. Power. I am sorry for the circumstance as it affects Lee, who has given fair support, but I really think it was unavoidable.

"Lady Downshire has been out of town, which has prevented me from ascertaining her wishes about Downpatrick."

but I will endeavour to do it as soon as I can.

"You will grieve to hear that Fox is considered now as in the most imminent and immediate danger. Last night it

was hardly expected that he would outlive to-day.

"I should wish to know your opinion as to the increase of the collector's salaries. Some increase, I believe, was unavoidable, and I trust and believe Newport will have been anxious to keep it as low as the service would allow." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 10. Parliament Street.—"We made some progress in the Chinese question, but your presence was felt by all to be a desideratum. Many propositions were offered. The one which I should prefer would be to furnish a small armed schooner to Captain Layman, with permission to touch at Jamaica and make his provisional arrangements; then to proceed to Cochin China with instructions from his employers to carry the plan into effect, and, if he shall find it practicable, to hire a Bombay ship (the cotton ships of Bombay are easily hired) and to send his cargo to Jamaica, and to bring from thence a cargo of sugars; Government undertaking to pay at the rate of 20l. per head for all who may be sent. I think I can satisfy you that this is the best and the least entangling mode of giving a duc encouragement. We appoint Tuesday or Wednesday next at eleven (requesting you to choose the day) for making a report. But surely some step must be taken to secure the acquiescence of the Creoles.

"We consented yesterday, unless you disapprove it, to give a licence to the Spanish minister in America to send in a neutral ship to Cadiz the timber materials for two steam engines for grinding corn; it seemed illiberal to refuse. We also gave a licence to twelve tailors to embark for America.

"I return Admiral Berkeley's intelligent letter. If you have no objection to its being sent to Lord Holland, have the goodness to return it, and I will send it to him; he would

like to see it.

"I have had a long conference with the King's advocate

on the neutral article, and he hints that we can frame one.

"As to the impressing point, I feel quite discouraged under a letter which I have received from Lord Howick with some very curious specimens of fraudulent certificates."

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, September 10. Downing Street.—"I enclose a letter and paper from Colonel McDonald. I am afraid I ought not to have sent him Mr. Marsden's paper, but it is done and

there is no remedy.

"It has occurred to me, that the best thing to be done about Spain would be that Mr. Brougham, who is at Lisbon with Lord Rosslyn, should proceed to Madrid with an ostensible appointment of commissary of prisoners, to hear what they have to say and to judge of their situation. It is not possible to occupy Lord Holland's attention with such a subject just now, but whenever he is able to attend to it, he could furnish Mr. Brougham with such letters to Madrid, and such information as to people there as would be in the highest degree useful." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 10. Council Office.—"I cannot very well see why the office of censuring Sir Sydney should devolve upon me. It is one that I am the farthest from coveting, nor am at present at all in state of executing, having seen nothing respecting his proceedings but a letter or two at the beginning of his correspondence with Elliot, which I hastily cast my

eye over yesterday.

"The Admiralty are, in general, pretty tenacious of the right of corresponding with their officers. In respect to the fact of quitting his ship (should such be the case) that must be Admiralty; and even if the acceptance of a command from a foreign power, though it may be in itself considered as of a more general nature, yet, as exemplified in the case of an individual, must be confined to the cognizance, I should think, of the department to which that individual belongs.

"My only inducement for taking it by choice would be that I should make the censure as mild as possible. I must first

inform myself of the case."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 11. Admiralty.—"I return you Colonel McDonald's letter, and one from a projector of the name of Mr. Parr.

"From the infinity of schemes of this kind that are proposed to me, it is impossible for me to adopt any other course then that of referring them in the first instance to my secretary, and if he reports that there is any chance of their being useful, I examine them myself. To this Mr. Parr has not chosen to submit, and there is nothing either in his mode of announcing his project, or in his threat, which can induce me to depart from the rule I have laid down."

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to THE SAME.

1806, September 11. Stowe.—"I had very little expectation that Fox could have held out beyond Wednesday night; but the case is, I fear, equally desperate, whether the close of

it be protracted a few days or not.

"I have written to Tom all that occurs to me on the various difficulties, in every view of the various arrangements that present themselves out of this event; and I feel throughly vexed that I can offer nothing but difficulties in addition to those which are obvious to every one. The most obvious remedy is the move of my peer to the House of Lords; but I can easily feel for your awkwardness in pressing this arrangement upon him, though I cannot admit that the claims of 'friendship or connexion' ought to interfere with a question so important, in a new disposition of things, so entirely changed by Mr. Fox's death. The whole game, and the entire responsibility is with you; and I must entreat you to feel your situation more strongly, and assume the tone that belongs to it. I do not, as you will easily imagine, urge you to consider yourself as the sole Minister of the Crown, but you cannot disguise to yourself the situation in which the death of Mr. Pitt and Mr. Fox places you, nor the disposition of the public to support your arrangements for the public service. The whole (particularly that part of the question that is connected with the House of Commons) must be considered as afloat by this act of Providence; and two things must be specially provided for, namely, the lead in that House by Lord Howick, and the countervailing weight of my brother Tom on our behalf, and in the next most responsible situation, and to lead our friends who, I hope and trust, never will follow Mr. Windham. I verily think that Grey might so arrange his Admiralty department, as to give him time to conduct the business of the House of Commons; and if he retains that office, no move need take place save that of Tom to succeed Mr. Fox. I know your doubts on this matter; but every day satisfies me that Fox has lived long enough to commit himself and his friends to the principles of negotiation that

have been put forward, and upon which perhaps at this moment the decision is actually taken at Paris. But I am confident that the public confidence is with you on that point; and that more would be lost by the dissatisfaction of one set of people in this country who would view Lord Howick's appointment to that office with doubt—and Lord H. Petty's with disgust—than could be lost by the dissatisfaction of the few who might retain their jealousy of a blood-hound Grenville. I have reason to know that the King hopes that Tom will be proposed to him for this department, and I verily believe nine in ten would equally wish it; and, above all, it would be the least difficult in point of the inconvenience

of a larger and more extensive move.

"I have suggested yesterday to Tom the idea of inducing Lord Howick to undertake the lead of the House of Commons, by giving to him a coadjutor in the laborious duties of his Office. My proposition is, to make the Comptroller of the Navy a much more prominent and important officer, by making him the head of the Navy Victualling and Transport Boards, with the second seat at the Admiralty, and perhaps the rank of Privy Council. I should not wish him to be in the House of Commons; but, if it were wished, the Comptroller's is not an excepted office, and his seat at these Boards not being with pay or salary from them, would not vacate his seat in Parliament. Such an office would be most satisfactorily filled by his brother George Grey, or by any proper person whom he might recommend to you, and the greater part of the details might devolve upon him in aid of Lord Howick. I have even told Tom, that I would myself undertake the civil branch of the naval department, without rank, patronage, fee or reward, if any assistance could enable Lord Howick to take the lead in the House of Commons. In short I consider this as the crisis of your political fame; and am only anxious that you should not sacrifice yourself, and the public interest, to a mistaken delicacy towards any one of those who engaged with you eight months ago to a different view of things; and the disposition of the offices of Secretary at War, of the India Board, and of the Mint might be so arranged as to secure the active assistance of Tiernay, Bragge, and Whitbread, as a second rank, who would remove all idea of your attempting to put by all save our wing of the army.

"I say nothing of any accession from the ranks of the enemy, because I think I can clearly see that they will treat with you in one body, and not separately. It is therefore idle to speculate on recruiting that third army, when your means are short even for the two who are now, and will I trust

continue, united.

"The Duke of Cumberland is quoted as very busy, and very liberal in his use of the King's name, but as I verily believe without authority or even countenance from his father; and I can see many reasons that would induce the

King to wish to keep every thing quiet. In short my object is to see Lord Howick at the Admiralty and House of Commons;

Tom Grenville successor to Fox.

"My Frenchmen leave me to-morrow or early on Sunday; if therefore you should wish to see me for a few hours at Dropmore—and if I can be of any use in these discussions— I will come there; and you may let me know by one line by return of post whether your swelled face allows you to go there for Sunday, and I shall get your letter before nine o'clock, time enough to come to you by dinner. But I know not why I should trouble you, for I can add nothing to the anxious wish I feel for keeping this vessel together, and for enabling it to make a better battle than it did last session.

"My Frenchmen's accounts from Russia are very warlike, and very confident, beyond what I think the tenor of Emperor Alexander's note warrants; and they are much more sanguine respecting Prussia, where, they say, it is utterly impossible that Haugwitz can hold his ground, as against the whole army, and the whole royal family. They speak of Prince Louis Ferdinand as having hoisted that standard of opposition, and as one through whom very much might be done at a proper moment. They appear to me to think that Bonaparte will make peace with you, for they think very seriously of the difficulties that press upon him in France; where, certainly, their correspondents speak of discontents, and great disorganization of the powers that govern in the provinces, but their reports of the state of the army are very interesting. I should not quite have credited these accounts, if I had not seen in the hands of the Bishop of St. Pol, about ten days since, some private letters from some of his clergy—five different letters—all singing to the same tune. Nevertheless I do not believe one word of peace; and I sincerely hope that by this time poor Lauderdale is locked up in the Temple."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 11. Admiralty.—"I send you the answer I have just received from Lord Holland, to a letter I wrote to

him after I left you.

"I did not explain to him that Mr. Brougham was to go as agent for prisoners, which, I apprehend, would have satisfied his apprehensions about Mr. Hunter, who, I believe, holds a different appointment.

"You will judge of the propriety of communicating with Lord Holland on the instructions to be given to Mr.

Brougham."

Enclosure.

LORD HOLLAND to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

September.—"I can confirm the account, I think, fully, for though he has been weaker than when Vaughan left him, it was the effect of physic, and when an evacuation took place he revived. In short I think he will bear this physic, and that he has got through one attack of weakness. In all other views of the case the prospect is as it was, and bad enough.

"With regard to the other point I am glad to hear you think of doing some thing about Spain, and Brougham is a very proper man and will do what he is told ably; but it really would be unhandsome and wrong to supersede Hunter, who is both a good man and one very agreeable to the Spaniards. Some means may be devised of joining Brougham with him, or of sending Brougham in some other character or on some other pretext; but I am sure that my uncle would not like any thing unhandsome to be done to Hunter who. though not clever, is an active, zealous and good-natured man. It is certainly candid in me saying so much, because Brougham is a person I am much connected with, and anxious to serve. But I think his employment compatible with Hunter, who would be very serviceable to him in procuring the means of doing, saying, and collecting what he thought right. Mr. Allen shall write the letters; I will sign them, and send them to-morrow to Sir Francis Vincent.

"Without any vanity I may say that I know more about Spain, both the coast and people, than most of you; and I should like to know what your instructions to Brougham are to be, for it is a thing that will fail entirely, or may lay the

ground of great good indeed."

LORD GRENVILLE tO LORD WINDHAM.

1806, September 11. Downing Street.—"In the distress and difficulty of every sort which the loss with which we are now threatened must bring upon us, my mind is unceasingly occupied with various suggestions and projects, none of them satisfactory, as to the arrangements which are to follow upon Among these a question has sometimes passed across my mind, how far you might or might not, in such a case, be inclined to entertain the idea of going into the House of Lords; the effect of which would be that, if Lord Howick took the Foreign Seals, which is, I think, very desirable, and if Lord Spencer succeeds him in the Admiralty, the advantages of which I need not state, we should be less embarrassed than we now are in our choice of a Secretary of State for the Home Department; the Civil List Act not allowing of three Secretaries of State sitting together in the House of Commons. And in that case, the choice would seem to me to lie between

my brother and Lord Henry Petty.
"My first wish must, of course, be to know thoroughly as far as it can be known, all that belongs to this most difficult subject, before I make up my own mind so far as to bring any distinct plan of arrangement under the consideration of yourself, and of the other persons with whom

it is to be concerted. I see some considerable convenience that might arise from the idea I have thrown out, and some relief to yourself from difficulties of various sorts. On the other hand, there are considerations that may possibly appear to you to stand decisively in the way of it; and it is a question on which, I need not say, that the slightest intimation of your wishes, either way, must outweigh in my mind all other considerations. The object of this letter is only that of bringing the subject under your own consideration that you may yourself decide upon it."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 11.—"I feel sincerely for your difficulties, as we all do, in a still greater degree, for that which is the immediate cause of them; but it is impossible that I can help to relieve them in the way you suggest.

"It is a proposal that was once made to me before, though without the same motives that might now induce me to comply. But the answer which I made without hesitation then, must

equally be given at present.

"I know not in what other way I can be of use to you, but that may be a matter of future consideration. It is as well, in the circumstances in which we may expect to be placed at any moment, that you should know how things stand on the immediate point in question."

Confidential. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, September 11. Whitehall.—"In my solitary drives since yesterday I have thought much of what we last talked about. It is clear to me that the first step should be to settle with Lord Spencer to undertake his old office, in which he will be sure to have the public confidence; and immediately thereon to name Lord Howick to the office vacated by death, leaving Lord Spencer's office for the present to be executed by the other secretaries; and to take a little time as to the remaining arrangements, which will, perhaps, be much facilitated and

improved by that mode.

I understand that Lord Minto will not be here till the 20th. If you wish it I feel no difficulty as to talking in great confidence with Sir George Shee, and am on sufficient terms with him for that purpose; and I can do it with a good grace enough, as he knows that I have no personal wish beyond the situations which I hold, and which, en passant I add, are all that I desire, if reasonable and proper means can be found through my sons or otherwise, to relieve my financial difficulties. Whitbread's appointment is an excellent idea if he will accede to it, and will be best arranged through his brother-in-law. There will be some delicacy and difficulty as to Lord Holland, whom I should really grieve to see quite dissatisfied; but that will best be done by a personal conference between you and him."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, September 11.—"It has happened, not unfortunately, though by very gross misconduct on the part of a messenger, that the drafts which you returned to me, and which were to have gone to-night to the king, have not been sent. For, upon looking into the only proclamation of Sir John Stuart's which I have seen, and which I had not seen before, I am far from seeing clearly what ground there is for censuring him at all. All that is done in the proclamation in question, and which I enclose with this, is to invite the Calabrians to co-operate with his army in their endeavours to restore Calabria to its lawful sovereign. Surely this was an invitation which he must be authorised to give them, if he were authorised at all to go into the country. If the objection turns upon his having done this without communication with Elliot, I don't know how far the communication was in his power.

"There must be something in the case more than I am aware of, or the censure, which we have proposed, light as it is,

would be more than ought to be passed upon him.

"To pass from that to an entirely opposite quarter, I cannot but feel a strong conviction of the truth of the opinions contained in the letter which you sent me from Hislop, and a great longing that a part of the force which we are now disposing of, was applied, not to the revolutionizing, but to the obtaining possession of part of the Spanish settlements in South America. A footing once obtained there, the rest would do itself by a mild and gradual operation; or, if it did not, we should equally be in a situation to secure a great portion of the advantages which such an event is supposed likely to produce, and, what is of most consequence of all, to prevent probably the French from establishing themselves there. I cannot but think that after taking J-, it might be well worth considering whether part of the force should not be sent on, and in conjunction with other force that must go to the West Indies, be employed in an expedition such as Hislop recommends. With Calabria well supported, with the discontents in France described in Lord Lauderdale's letter, and with an establishment on the continent of South America, followed by a hearty support of the war in this country, the period may not be far distant, nor exceed the term to which we can afford to wait, when the power of Bonaparte may begin to totter; and, if once thrown out of its balance, fall to the ground with very little struggle. The effect which I dread from peace is that of confirming and consolidating it."

LORD GRENVILLE to Mr. STUART, Sceretary of the British Embassy at St. Petersburgh.

1806, September 12. Downing Street.—"No despatches have yet been received from you of a later date than the 9th of August. We have consequently no account of the arrival of the messenger despatched from hence on the day

the copy of M. d'Oubril's treaty was received, nor do we know what impression has been produced by the assurances which the instructions sent by him authorized you to give to the Russian Government. Those assurances, however, and the communication which you have since been enabled to make of the different steps taken in the course of the discussions at Paris, cannot fail to have convinced the Court of Petersburgh of the sincere and stedfast disposition of his Majesty to maintain under all circumstances the most cordial

union with his august ally.

"The open and friendly intercourse established between Mr. Adair and Count Rasomouski has put his Majesty's government in possession of a copy of the letter written by the Baron de Budberg to M. de Talleyrand; a paper of the utmost importance, and which the difficulty of the communications has prevented our having as yet received directly from Petersburgh. I mention this to you in order that you may be enabled to notice it to the Russian Minister, in acknowledgment of the great advantage which has thus been derived by the concert in which the ministers of our two courts act together at Vienna, and as a proof of the benefit which must result from its continuance.

"The communication of this paper has put his Majesty's government in possession of the terms which, in the present state of things, the Emperor has judged it proper for him to insist on in any further discussions with France. And this knowledge could not have come to us more opportunely.

"The enclosed despatch from Lord Lauderdale, No. 11, will shew you what the language was which was held to his lordship by M. Talleyrand, when he communicated to him the circumstance of the Emperor's refusal to ratify M. d'Oubril's

treaty.

"It is remarkable that he has never yet made to his lordship any communication of M. de Budberg's letter, and this circumstance, coupled with the general tenor of his conversation, manifestly shews his object to have been that of producing, if possible, a separate negotiation between this country and France.

"On a full consideration of the discussions which had passed between his Majesty's government and that of Russia before M. d' Oubril arrived at Paris, and of the above mentioned most important paper, the instructions, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, were despatched to Lord Lauderdale for the regulation of his conduct in the further progress of his negotiation.

"The instruction is itself so ample and explicit that it does not seem to require much further remark in this despatch."

"The whole principle on which it rests is, as you will observe, that which had so fully been discussed between our two courts, of treating separately in point of form, but substantially in the most intimate union and concert; and particularly that no

treaty of peace shall be definitively ratified by the one unless the other shall at the same time have brought its negotiation to the same state, upon principles mutually agreed on by communication with each other.

"The points then to be considered were:-

"1st. The precise mode of treating so as to give full effect to this principle, and neither to interpose any unnecessary delay in the way of secure and honourable peace, if that great work can be accomplished; nor, on the other hand, to leave any opening for such arts as the French Government has in the late instance been enabled to employ with a temporary appearance of success with a view to disunite the two allies.

"The plans recited for this purpose are detailed in the instruction. The annexed extract from Mr. Fox's despatch to Lord Yarmouth of the 16th of July will explain the points for which that despatch is referred to in the present instruction, and the powers now given to Lord Lauderdale are strictly conformable to the ideas there contained, which have already received the assent of the Russian Government. But unless these powers should enable his lordship to bring the whole matter, both as it respects this country and Russia, to an immediate conclusion, which is, perhaps, hardly to be expected, it seems very desirable that some person of confidence and due discretion should be authorized to proceed to Paris with authority to treat in the Emperor's name, but in strict confidence and constant communication with his Majesty's government here; or that a like authority should be given

to the Emperor's representative at this court.

"The second point was that of the terms to be insisted upon by this country, in arranging which there was so much the less difficulty because his Majesty had nothing to ask that had not already been offered to him by the French Government, through the channel of the Earl of Yarmouth. The possessions occupied by his Majesty are so circumstanced that France cannot hope to regain them by war, and cannot therefore, if she be really disposed to peace, reasonably object to their being retained by his Majesty as a very small counterbalance to the immense acquisitions of territory and influence on the Continent which a peace would confirm to her. With respect to Hanover, it is sufficiently evident from the whole conduct of France in this negotiation, that she does not wish to see that state ultimately remain to Prussia, although she has, of policy that are sufficiently obvious, encouraged that power in its present most unjust and shameful occupation of it. As to Sicily I can add nothing to what is stated in the despatch to Lord Lauderdale. The Emperor of Russia has demanded the guaranty of that possession to his Sicilian Majesty as a sine qua non condition of his own peace. That consideration alone would, on the principles already stated, lead to his Majesty's insisting on the same demand. But his Majesty feels on his own part also every inducement

to adopt and persevere in the same determination. The brilliant successes lately obtained by his Majesty's arms in Calabria sufficiently shew that if war continues, the enemy has much more to fear than to hope for in every attack that he may meditate against Sicily. The next consideration was that of the claims of Russia, in case his Majesty's minister should, in the absence of a Russian Plenipotentiary, be called upon to enter into that discussion, so intimately connected

as it now is with the result of his own negotiation.

"The points stated in M. de Budberg's letter are so clear and explicit that a reference to them, as far as they went, comprized all that could be necessary to be said respecting them. But, considering how much more disposition towards concession the French Government seemed desirous of expressing now than before, it seemed important that Lord Lauderdale should be prepared for the case (a possible one though we fear not probable) in which France should acquiesce in the Emperor's demands, provided it was settled to whom Dalmatia should be allotted.

"On this point therefore, as well as on the precise nature of the indemnity to be given to the King of Sardinia, it seemed desirable to provide such an explanation as cannot, it is hoped, be unsatisfactory to Russia, but may eventually prove the means of accelerating a favourable conclusion of the

negotiations.

"It is on these grounds that the last paragraph in the instruction was framed. You will communicate to the Court of Petersburgh the whole of that paper, as well as of the others enclosed in this despatch; and you will express the King's confident persuasion that, in every part of what has been done on this interesting occasion, he will be found to have met entirely the wishes and sentiments of the Emperor of Russia." Draft. Holograph.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to MR. STUART.

1806, September 12. Downing Street.—"Information has been received here of the overtures made at Copenhagen by the Court of Berlin, with a view to procure the accession of Denmark to the confederation in Germany at the head of which Prussia is desirous of being placed. From Count Bernstorff's language to Mr. Garlike it seems probable that no definite answer would be given until Russia had been consulted, and I think it therefore material to put you in possession of his Majesty's sentiments on this subject.

"So long as Prussia retains its unjust occupation of Hanover, no peace can be established between that country and this. The King's determination on this point has been publicly announced. It has been seconded by the unanimous applause of his people, and Prussia can entertain no hope that it will ever be relinquished. In this state of war, any accession of

power and influence to an enemy must be a natural object of jealousy here; and there can be no doubt that it was with the view of producing this very situation that France so strongly urged the King of Prussia to take this most unjustifiable step which, until it be retracted, must for ever interpose an insurmountable bar to any community of interest between Great Britain and Prussia.

"Under these circumstances it can by no means be the wish of this government that Prussia should be strengthened by the accession of other powers to a confederation of which she seems to assume a sort of direction and sovereignty analagous to that of France in the other parts of Germany. Nor, indeed, is it probable that such a state of subjection should suit the views either of Denmark or Sweden with respect to that part of their territory which was included in the German empire. Those territories must of course now revert to their own uncontrolled sovereignty, and they can be but little disposed to involve themselves in fresh obligations of duties towards another power, especially one so little scrupulous in its objects or means as Prussia has shewn herself to be.

"The King confidently expects from the friendship of his ally, that the answer of the Court of Petersburg to Denmark

will be framed in conformity with these principles.

"It is true that the Prussian confederation is in semblance and pretence directed against the further encroachments of France, and may seem, therefore, to challenge the favourable wishes of all powers opposed to the further extension of that formidable empire. But there is too much reason to believe that the whole plan has in reality been formed and concerted at Paris, and is much more directed to the object of extending the dominions of Prussia than to that of limiting those of France. In the present state of Europe, and after all that has already passed, the only pledge that Prussia could give of a real desire to resist France would be by cordially uniting herself to Great Britain and Russia, and (as a necessary preliminary of such alliance) by satisfying the King's just expectations on the subject of Hanover, a possession which France will not leave to her at a peace, and only permits her to hold while the war continues, in order to disunite her from the allies.

"If, therefore, any overtures are made on this subject at Petersburg by the Court of Berlin, his Majesty trusts that the answer, while it expresses the known dispositions of the allies to concur in any plan really calculated to limit the growing encroachment of France, will, at the same time, refuse all concurrence in measures tending to aggrandize a power which has shewn itself in no other light than that of the instrument of French ambition. If France really is to be resisted in the north of Germany, this is not to be done by a Prussian confederation, whose means are manifestly inadequate to such a purpose, but by a northern league. Into such a league, embracing Great Britain, Russia, Denmark and Sweden, as

well as the independant states of Saxony, Hanover, and Hesse, Prussia would enter not as a sovereign or paramount disposing of the whole for her separate objects, but on terms of equality, with a previous explanation of the objects to be pursued, and of the measures by which they were to be accomplished. It is to the establishment of such a system that his Majesty thinks the attention of the King of Prussia ought to be directed, whenever the eyes of that sovereign are really opened to the dangers he has brought upon himself as well as on the rest of Europe by his subserviency to France; and in producing a disposition towards such a system, the representations of the Emperor Alexander are, in such a case, more likely to have weight than those of any other power." Draft. Holograph.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 12 [Whitehall.]—"I should have told you before, if there was time to tell anything, of a plan which I have proposed to the Duke of York of employing half-pay officers in recruiting, not at any certain rate of pay, but as a higher and accredited class of bringers, who should be paid so much for every man they bring. The idea was suggested to me by those who are afraid to appear, but are very good counsel on these subjects, and who feel very confident of its success.

"It seems to be pretty generally agreed that some thing is wanted in addition to the exertions of mere recruiting parties, who do not spread wide enough; and, with a view to this effect, it was that so much was done, and done with considerable success, in the way of civil agents. A scheme was drawn up during the time of the last Government, and meant to be submitted to Parliament, for extending this system. But the objection to it is that the persons thus employed cannot well be made subject to a sufficient control; and retain the character therefore, as well as continue the practices of crimps. Considerable mischief must always be done to the manners and morals of the people by encouraging bringers at all. there is no help for it, and the only means of mitigating the evil is to throw as much of the recruiting as possible into the hands of persons of a better description, and who, by holding commissions, become amenable to military law.

"Inclosed with this I send you a copy of the rules and regulations prepared according to the plans opened in Parliament, and which I put into the Duke's hands something more than a month ago. I have deferred to send them to you, wishing first to have the observations upon them which he has promised me from time to time; but which, as far as I collect from my communications with Sir David Dundas to whom I believe the Duke referred them, will not contain so much as to make it worth while waiting for them. At all events there must not be much discussion upon them, for already

has too much time elapsed; and a little more will carry us beyond the season when they may be promulgated with most advantage. I do not conceive that there is any thing material that can be altered.

"One of the objections, besides those which were founded merely on a mistake of what was intended, related to the allowance of time for service in the East and West Indies, and was made to turn on the circumstance that a man in this way might, at the end of 14 years, have completed his third period. But the answer is that such was meant to be the effect; and that 14 years' continued service in the West Indies would properly be considered as twenty-one years elsewhere. Another objection, much insisted upon, was that the privileges thus granted were made liable to forfeiture only by the decision of a general court-martial. But this again I think is quite right, and conformable to the solemnity which we have all along intended to attach to them.

"If any difficulty should be found hereafter in assembling for these purposes general courts-martial, something intermediate may be devised, such as requiring that the sentence of a regimental court-martial should in those cases be submitted to the King. But it is better to set out with the more solemn

form of proceeding.

"Another objection has been taken to the choosing for the place of discharge, that is the place to which marching money should be allowed, the place of attestation. But the choice is founded in the impossibility of finding any other, and the difficulty of providing an arrangement by which the soldier should receive his allowance (as in the case of a parish pass) only in proportion as he fairly pursued the route to what he declared to be the place of his destination.

"As soon as the regulations have received the King's signature, printed copies will be sent out in all directions from the Inspector-General's Office, accompanied with a paper, which we have got printed, setting forth in a more popular form, and coming as it were from the recruiting officer, the

substance of what is contained in the regulations.

"The Chelsea Board must, in like manner, though most of these departments move with reluctance, be made to publish the intention of extending at the next payment the increased

allowances to the present pensioners.

"The change of bounty, in the mean time, I have proposed to be for the present no more than is sufficient to show that it is going downwards, by bringing it to the state in which it was before the last increase, or thirteen guineas to the infantry and to the cavalry. This will be a reduction of three guineas in each service. The Duke of York, I know, will fight against this as not proportionate to the advantages given to the soldier in other respects. But upon what principle must there be a decrease of advantages of one sort exactly proportioned to the increase of those of another? At that rate, if it could

be exactly hit off, the recruiting must be always stationary. Though I believe that less would do, it is of great consequence not to begin in a manner which would require an increase in future.

"I don't know that more is necessary upon this subject except to beg you to be prepared to support me in resisting alterations urged by those who, by being hostile to the plan, are not the best judges of what is best for its success, and may not be sorry for anything that tends further to delay it.

"I have taken no step of late, not knowing exactly what you would wish, upon the subject of the waggon train. My own opinion remains unaltered, and that we ought on no account to give way. I cannot find a man who thinks of it otherwise than as a most useless expense; and the man who is at the head of it, whom there seems so much desire to save, is very far from being a fit object of such solicitude. He is a shrewd interested man, who has raised himself, with no apparent merits, to fortune and favour from low beginnings; and was, some years back, so given to the dissatisfaction of the time as, in the opinion of many, to make him much more deserving of an exaltation of another kind than that which he has contrived to obtain. I am sure that in bringing this waggon to what we originally proposed, we shall do a very right and, at the same time, a very popular thing."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 13. Phænix Park.—" I have given the most deliberate and the most impartial attention in my power, in concert with Mr. Elliot, and aided by the advice and opinion of military men whose general knowledge and local experience must enable them to form a correct judgment of the measure, to the plan suggested by your lordship in your letters both to Mr. Elliot and to me, of raising Catholic corps, to be commanded by Catholic officers, in Ireland for foreign service; and upon a due and full consideration of the subject, I cannot but express my most earnest hope that his Majesty's ministers will pause before they sanction a measure which, I apprehend, would operate as injurious to the feelings of a great part of the people of Ireland, and would be far from beneficial in the result, as to the important end it is meant to promote.

"The ordinary, and certainly the best mode of recruiting, under the improved system established by the measures of the last session of Parliament will, I believe, as soon as it has had a fair trial, answer our most sanguine expectations; and without resorting to other expedients, produce a rapid and efficient increase to his Majesty's forces, embracing both the Protestant and Catholic population of Ireland. There is one circumstance, however, which I must mention, and which I am informed has given a material check to the enlistment of the Roman Catholics. When persons of this persuasion enlist, they are

informed that they shall enjoy the free exercise of their religious worship. This promise, as long as they remain in Ireland (with some few exceptions, which have been remedied as soon as known) has been strictly adhered to; but as soon as they arrive at the depôt in the Isle of Wight, or in other British quarters, they are frequently compelled to attend the Protestant worship. This has come to the knowledge of the Irish Catholics, and has very essentially impeded the recruiting service among them; so much so, that I am informed not a single Catholic has collisted in the county of Kilkenny (a Roman Catholic county) for a considerable length of time. If means can be taken for remedying this grievance, and the remedy be made known in Ireland, it may produce the most beneficial consequences.

"The measure of raising corps exclusively Catholic, giving the command to Roman Catholic gentry, for foreign service, might, I fear, tend to raise a premature discussion of the question of the Catholic claims; and on the other hand, by confirming a supposed distinction on the Roman Catholics, would too probably irritate the violent Protestant party, or Orange men, already somewhat sore from the imaginary evil rankling in their minds, of the Roman Catholics possessing the exclusive favour and confidence of the present government; and thus lead to a revival of those religious animosities, which have heretofore made Ireland a melancholy scene of outrage, anarchy,

and discord

"Upon the whole, for these and other reasons unnecessary for me now to detail, as Mr. Elliot sails for England to-morrow, and will converse fully and freely with you upon this subject, it is my opinion 1st, that the ordinary system of recruiting, now improved in the most essential points by the measures of the last session, should not be disturbed, until the experiment has been allowed a fair and reasonable chance; and 2ndly, that if extraordinary expedients are deemed necessary to be resorted to, the one suggested by your lordship will, I fear, be found to be of very doubtful and hazardous operation."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, September 13. Downing Street.—"The only reason of my not having answered the Chancellor's letter was exactly what you do me the justice to impute it to, the hourly expectation which your letters and Mr. Elliot's had led me to entertain of seeing him here. I am, however, most sincerely concerned that the omission has occasioned you any additional trouble in a business on which you had already had too much. I shall, of course, be anxious to see the Chancellor as soon as he comes; but I am confident that my opinion on the subject cannot be altered.

"I received a few days since your grace's letter about Lord Charles Somerset. I sincerely feel for his situation, and should be most happy to contribute to relieve it, but you will easily feel the impossibility of finding office for him, especially at a moment when the inexpressible loss we are about to sustain in the House of Commons must oblige us to apply all possible means within our reach to the main object of strengthening our line of battle there. I had some discussion with one of Lord Charles's friends some time since about the possibility of his acting as Deputy Gold Stick; but it appeared that Lord Heathfield was in possession of acting in that character, and it was understood that the difficulty of adding Lord Charles Somerset to him was insurmountable. I will, however, make fresh enquiries on the subject, being doubly anxious to find the means of accomplishing an object in which you take so much interest.

"In the event, now too probable, of an immediate vacancy for Westminster, Lord Percy will, I hope, be induced to offer himself. May I request that you will lose no time in directing your agents to give him the most active support, as early exertions may crush the possibility of opposition to him." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 13. Admiralty.—"Poor Fox died at five o'clock. I wrote from Chiswick to announce this sad event to the King."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, September 13. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville is deeply concerned to have the painful duty of acquainting your Majesty that he has this moment received the melancholy account of Mr. Fox's death, which happened at about a ½ before six this afternoon.

"Lord Grenville presumes your Majesty will approve of Lord Spencer's taking charge of the seals of the Foreign Office, until your Majesty shall have been pleased to determine as

to the disposal of them." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 13. Eden Farm.—"Many thanks for your kind recollection; your note found me in my dressing room at a quarter before seven, and brought the first intelligence of the event in question. I may without any offence to right feelings, be pleased with the consequences of that event; but I can with truth add that I have never suffered my mind to entertain even a lurking wish for it.

"The office belongs to my son, but his affections and confidence respecting me and all belonging to me are unreservedly such, that his sole object will be to apply this accession to my relief and to our general advantage. And when I consider how I have lived, and that I have educated

and brought forwards a family of twelve children, I can avow without any shame that I have incurred a debt, which it must be my first purpose to discharge, though it is so circumstanced that it is in no degree pressing.

"I wish much to have the benefit of your private and better judgment respecting the deputyship of this office. It is 1,000*l*. net, and certainly too material to be given up to an obscure stranger, unless any custom or other consideration shall have

made such a practice right.

"I will drive to town so as to call in Downing Street at eleven o'clock, and hope that you will have the kindness to admit me for a few minutes. Indeed I had meant this at any rate; or at least to have written to you on the subject which I undertook to mention to Dr. Hall, respecting which his answer is most satisfactory."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, September 13. Oxford Street.—"I saw Canning this morning and gave him to understand that the difficulties arising from the numerous pretensions which he had stated appeared to be insurmountable; and therefore, that it seemed most advisable to terminate the discussion. He seemed much to regret the result of this affair; but to be perfectly sensible of the justice and honour of your conduct, and of your great personal kindness towards him. He understands the transaction to be closed; but in a manner so amicable, that no difficulty can occur in opening it again, if it should appear expedient. Every hour convinces me more strongly of the misfortune of that concurrence of circumstances which seems to prevent you from deriving the advantages now offered by the generally favourable disposition towards you which exists among all descriptions of respectable people. I shall for ever lament that you cannot avail yourself of the present crisis to establish your government on a basis more immediately connected with your own influence, authority, and power. I fear that if this crisis cannot be improved to that purpose, difficulties will accumulate, and the gates of concord will be barred for ever.

"I conclude that Fox's death must have happened this day, and I therefore suppose that you have already commenced

your arrangements.

"Canning observed to me that, if it should ultimately occur to you to make any propositions of a more definite nature, it might be most proper to speak to the Duke of Portland. I gave him no reason to believe however, that any thing more was likely to be attempted by you."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, September 14. Eden Farm.—"I much hope that you may have it in your power to come to the committee of Council

to-morrow at twelve o'clock. I can venture to say that you will not be detained more than half an hour, or at most three quarters. But the businesses are material and urgent. We found on examination that we had granted licenses within the last four months to ten principal houses engaged in the secret trade to South America; to the extent certainly of one million sterling, and perhaps more than double that amount. I wrote

to the individuals and they will attend.

"There is another subject which must also be mentioned to-morrow. Some memorials signed by many respectable manufacturers in Manchester and Birmingham represent with extreme earnestness that they have property to an immense amount warehoused in Dusseldorf, Solingen, and other places reported to be included in the duchy of Berg, which will be seized by the French if we proceed to condemn the Bergen ships; and the sentences are to be given on Tuesday. I have sent the papers to the King's advocate to report to-morrow whether there can be any decisive objection to a delay, at least, in the adjudication."

Private.—"In truth there is an avidity in the Admiralty Courts to despatch these matters, which the merchants say is accompanied by an intolerable expense; and I shall not be surprised to see the subject brought into Parliamentary

discussion.

"When Lord Thurlow was appointed to the tellership in 1786, he found a Mr. Price in the deputyship, and Mr. Price had been appointed by Lord Northington. Lord Thurlow continued the deputy, whether on any private conditions I do not know. In 1795, Mr. Price ceased to be deputy, and Mr. J. Price, his son, was appointed. The possession, therefore, has been during eleven years."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

1806, September 14. Downing Street.—"This messenger brings you the melancholy account of the irreparable loss we have all sustained. It is a subject on which, knowing what your feelings will be upon it, it is painful for me to dwell. Before I had been in political connection with him, I had long admired his character; and since I had had the opportunity of more intimate habits and closer observation, that sentiment had been improved into feelings of the strongest and most lively regard. I have lost not only a political co-adjutor under whom it was an honour to any man to act, and whose talents and wisdom gave me a confidence in every measure in which he concurred; I have lost also a man whose friendship it was a pleasure to cultivate, and with whom every day was uniting me more closely. How much greater is your loss? and how deeply must it be felt?

"Our principal object in sending you this messenger is that you should not hear this account in any other way, though

I imagine you must have been fully prepared for it.

"Of Buenos Ayres I say nothing, except that it may, I think, tend to facilitate peace, or to afford an opening for measures that will make a deep impression in France. My earnest wish is that you may be able to make use of it effectually for the first of these objects." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 14. Windsor Castle.—"The King entirely approves of Earl Spencer taking charge of the seals of the Foreign Office in consequence of the death of Mr. Fox, until Lord Grenville shall have been able to consider of such arrangement as shall appear to him best for supplying that situation; nor is it by any means his Majesty's wish to hurry him upon this occasion."

LORD GRENVILLE to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, September 15. Downing Street.—"I had the honour last night to receive the commands which your Royal Highness had the goodness to send me through Colonel McMahon, and for which I beg leave to return your Royal

Highness my most dutiful thanks.

Your Royal Highness will readily judge of the great difficulty which has been brought upon us by the irreparable loss the Government has sustained in the person of Mr. Fox. The arrangements to which that event may lead must naturally require some time for consideration and discussion; for, although we had but too much reason to apprehend what has happened, it was impossible to enter on those as fully as necessary, while there was yet a chance that his life might be preserved to us. It would have been a great eonsolation to me under the difficulties of this situation to have had the means of recurring to your Royal Highness's better judgment; and under the circumstances of your Royal Highness's absence, I trust you will allow me, when we begin to see our way a little more clearly, to trouble your Royal Highness with a statement of the ideas which are in contemplation. Lord Percy offers himself for Westminster in consequence of a communication which I had had some weeks since with the Duke of North[umberlan]d. It is matter of much mortification and concern to hear that there is a prospect of his being opposed by Mr. Sheridan, but I still trust that this will not be the case.

"Colonel McMahon mentioned to me another subject; that of the present situation of the business consequent upon the late enquiry, on which he said that your Royal Highness had expressed some uneasiness. Your Royal Highness has, I believe, been apprized that an intimation has been given of an intention to prepare a defence. While this is doing, I must confess it does not appear to me that any fresh step, of any description could with advantage or propriety be taken in that business. The arts that have been used to inflame

the public mind on this subject, in the most unjust and unwarrantable manner, seem to me, if your Royal Highness will allow me to submit my humble thoughts on the subject, to require the utmost prudence and caution in every step to be taken by those who are known to be honoured with your Royal

Highness's favour.

"A chamberlain of the Duke of Brunswick brought me this day a letter from his Serene Highness, in which he does me the honour to desire my assistance in accelerating the report to be made on the subject of the enquiry; and he mentioned his desire to have an audience of the King. I told him as to the first point that the report was already made; and that with respect to every other part of the business, of which much is said in the Duke's letter, it was one on which I could not open my lips to him but by the King's express commands. As to the audience, I referred him to Lord Spencer whom the King has been pleased to charge ad interim with the seals of the Foreign Department. I trust your Royal Highness will forgive my presuming to trespass upon your time with so long a letter, but I thought it might be interesting to your Royal Highness to know these particulars." Copy.

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 15. Phenix Park.—"I think it my duty to lay before your lordship the request I have received from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, contained in the accompanying extract. At an early period, after my appointment to the government of Ireland, a request to the same effect came to me from Lord Robert Seymour, stating in addition, that Mr. Pitt had made an absolute promise of the reversionary grant in question, and that if he had lived but a few weeks longer, the wishes of his (Lord Robert's) family would certainly have been accomplished; and earnestly entreating me to recommend it to your lordship's consideration. When I reflected upon what had passed at the various meetings we had at Spencer House upon the subject of reversionary grants generally, as well as at Carlton House, when the Prince did me the honour of conversing with me on the practice that had so much prevailed in Ireland, I confess that all feelings of a private nature, arising out of my friendship and near connection with Colonel Seymour, and the high regard I must ever bear to the memory of the late Lord Hugh Seymour, gave way to higher considerations urged by a sense of public duty, and I positively refused to listen to the proposal of Lord Robert.

"The request now comes in another shape, and backed by higher influence. I therefore feel desirous that the entire responsibility of putting a negative on the request of his Royal Highness should not rest solely on me, and I feel it incumbent on me to beg of your lordship to submit it to such of his Majesty's confidential servants as you may think proper, and to allow me to be guided by their determination. At the same time, I must add my apprehensions that any departure from the general rule we laid down, might open a door to many applications, and lead to very serious inconveniences."

Enclosure.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, September 9. Carlton House.—"There is a point which I am going to mention to you, which I acknowledge that I have much at heart, and which, if you will arrange for me, I shall ever consider myself as under the most personal obligation possible to you; and I do assure you that I will pledge myself to be no further troublesome through the rest of your vice-regal reign; and I verily believe that you yourself, when you know what it is that I am going to request, will be as happy to confer the obligation upon me, as I shall be to receive it at your hands. The subject I have at heart is this. Lord Henry and Lord Robert Seymour hold jointly the office of Clerk of the Crown in the King's Bench in Ireland; and, if one of them dies, the whole rests in the survivor. I therefore most earnestly wish that a reversionary grant of this office may be obtained in favour of my much esteemed and loved friend Lieutenant-Colonel Seymour (son of Lord Robert Seymour) who is now with you; and when I have said that, I am sure I need not say any thing more, except that I have long been seeking an opportunity, somehow or other, of proving my esteem for him; and to George Seymour my god-son (the son of my late much valued friend Lord Hugh Seymour) whose conduct has been so very meritorious, and who has been so severely wounded in the service of his country, in the engagement under the command of Admiral Cochrane; so that, on the expiration of the present patent, the one may succeed to the moiety of the office now held by his father, and the other to that held by his uncle Lord Henry." Extract.

LORD GRENVILLE tO VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, September 15. Downing Street.—"I return the plan and report respecting Plymouth Sound, and I think there can be little doubt of the propriety of undertaking the work.

"It may be a question whether the work is not one on which the labour of convicts could be usefully and economically employed. If you think it worth while to make the enquiry, Lord Spencer might direct information to be collected as to eomparative expense of the river hulks and the transportation to New South Wales.

"This is, however, a mere question of detail, and need not interrupt the preparations for beginning on the work itself. Under what inspection would it be done? Has the Admiralty an engineer department for works of this nature,

or would one of those who have reported be employed upon it? The work is so large that it will be material to put it in the first instance on such a footing as that every practicable check to the expense may be applied to it." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.

1806, September 15. Downing Street.—"Lord Percy will stand, and what will perhaps surprise you a little, Sheridan opposes him. Pray do all you can. We are in a strange state with our Treasurer of the Navy opposing us in Parliament, and creating an opposition to us in Westminster." Copy.

THE SAME to LORD HENRY PETTY.

1806, September 16. Downing Street.—"I have not seen Windham since our last conversation of yesterday, but I had an opportunity of talking the matter over with the two other persons I named, and I find them so very strongly impressed with the objection which was mentioned yesterday by Lord Fitzwilliam, and which has also made a great impression on my own mind, that I really think the idea must be abandoned. How desirous we are, all of us, to concur in everything that can do honour to his memory I am sure I need not say; but his own conduct has been so scrupulously delicate on the particular point now in question, that his friends would seem to deviate from the line he himself had marked out, in pressing upon that quarter steps that may be represented unnecessarily injurious and painful. A private funeral in Westminster Abbcy, with the attendance of friends seems, under these circumstances, the best course to be pursued; and I trust to your kindness to explain to Lord Holland the considerations which have led me to depart from the opinion I had formed on this point, and which originated in my sincere and earnest desire of giving every testimony in my power of my deep sense of the loss we have sustained." Copy.

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, September 17. Downing Street.—"I find that the Foreign Slave Trade Act of last session extends only to colonies already conquered, and that a special clause will be necessary to prohibit the import of slaves into Buenos Ayres. Will you have the goodness to speak about this. I do not think we need make any saving of licences, but I think there must be the same exception as in the act for—

"1. Slaves employed in navigation and coasting trade. 2. Slaves employed as domestic slaves, bona fide such.

"3. Slaves employed in any manner whatever in the King's naval or military service." Copy.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 17. Oxford Street.—"I send you a note which I have just now received; I suppose it is too late; if so, pray return it."

Enclosure.

GEORGE CANNING to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, September 16. South Hill.—"Since we parted on Saturday a mode of arrangement with respect to one of the parties who were in question has occurred to me; which might possibly lessen the difficulties that appeared altogether insurmountable.

"It is, perhaps, hardly worth while to say this, as the event which has now actually taken place must probably have driven Lord Grenville to the necessity of making his arrangements without delay. Nor can I answer for the success of my suggestion, even if there should be an opportunity of trying it.

"If the arrangements are made (which you will know) it will be best that you should not mention my having written

"Should you write to me to-morrow, direct to me at Taplow, whither I am just going; and shall stay there to-morrow, but return home Thursday." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, September 18. Downing Street.—"I return you the inclosed; the arrangements are not yet finally made, but they are so far in train that I doubt whether I could honourably ask the explanation there alluded to; though, if given, it might possibly be useful." Copy.

THE SAME to LORD HOWICK.

1806, September 18. Downing Street.—"After having in the fullest manner discussed the subject with all my immediate friends and connections, we are decidedly of opinion that it is impossible for us to bring to a joint government that proportion of assistance which our means would naturally furnish, or indeed to make any proposal of arrangements which seems to us to afford a reasonable hope of carrying on the business in the House of Commons, unless my brother Mr. Grenville holds the seals of one of the departments. We feel an equal anxiety that you should be in the same situation, and should, so long as you continue in the House of Commons, take that lead there for which your talents and situation naturally mark you out. But I should deceive you if I did not say with equal frankness that we believe (whether justly or not) that even your success in that arduous undertaking will essentially depend on the assistance which, in various ways,

government would derive from my brother's holding also a like station. Nor can I, in justice to myself or to others, undertake to propose the one without the other arrangement. To this consideration let me add that of the Admiralty, which, if you quit it, all the world will expect to see placed in Lord Spencer's hands, and for which my brother possesses no peculiar fitness that could justify his being placed there when Lord

Spencer can be induced to take it.

"Here then rests the whole difficulty of the arrangement. To Lord Holland's having the Privy Seal on Lord Fitzwilliam retiring from office; to Lord Fitzwilliam's retaining his place in the Cabinet; and to bringing Tierney into the India Board or Mint at his choice, and Whitbread into the Secretaryship of War, whenever it can be opened by the most liberal professional arrangements that can be found for Fitzpatrick; to all these arrangements in favour of Fox's friends we not only most willingly consent, but I am sure for one I can say that there is not any one of them in which I shall not feel sincere pleasure, as thinking them likely to contribute as much to my own personal comfort, as to the

general strength of government.

"But upon the point of the arrangement for Lord Spencer and my brother you must assist us; not I trust by relinquishing your own pretensions, a point which I should be most sorry to urge, and from which government itself would have much to fear, but by concurring fully and heartily with us in representing to Windham the true state of things. It is necessary to shew him that his going to the House of Lords is indispensable; not, as you seemed to feel it yesterday, for my brother's personal convenience, for neither he nor any man could have a right to ask such a personal sacrifice for his individual objects, but because there really is (and I speak it after having passed very many hours in turning the subject over in all possible shapes) no other way than this in which a government can now be formed out of the parties now in office; and, if this fails, I am confident no other alternative remains for us but of either making large offers to the Opposition, or declaring to the Kingfairly that we cannot form a government such as we can venture to propose to him as adequate to meet the present crisis.

"Pray turn this over in your mind in the course of the morning, and if possible let me have the pleasure of seeing you here at dinner, when you will only meet Lord Spencer and my brother, and when we may finally settle what decision to take between difficulties for which it cannot be hoped that any new solution will offer itself after the subject has been

so fully considered." Copy.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 18. Knowseley.—"I have a thousand acknowledgments to make to you for the very kind letter

I have just received from you, but which I regret much that it is not in my power, from the deep state of affliction in which I am now plunged at the irreparable loss we have all sustained, to answer as much in detail as I could wish. The sincere regard and friendship I feel for you privately, as well as the high estimation I entertain for your public character, inspire me with entire confidence that whatever measures you may think advisable to recommend either respecting me, in my present painful and distressing situation, now so long protracted, or to repair as far as it may be possible the heavy calamity which has befallen us all, will be marked with that wisdom which so eminently distinguishes you.

"I cannot read without the strongest emotions your sentiments towards myself, and I do assure you that nothing can afford to me more real satisfaction than hearing from you and communicating with you at all times in the most confidential manner. I need hardly add to you that every effort of mine shall be exerted to the furtherance of the views and interests of the present Government, of which you form so distinguished a part. The fulness of my mind is such at this moment, that I can only add the assurances of every sentiment of affectionate regard."

Postscript.—"I have forgotten to mention to you, that previous to your letter being received by me, I had written to McMahon, to exercise all my influence over Mr. Sheridan to preserve every thing quiet at a moment like the present; if you will have the goodness to send for McMahon he will explain to you the result."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, September 19. Eden Farm.—"I have returned to Mr. Fawkener the Order in Council respecting Buenos Ayres, with a remark that appears to me to be somewhat material. I hope, therefore, that he may be able to submit it to you.

"You will, perhaps, have recollected what I mentioned on Wednesday, that the duties imposed may in a very short period produce not less than from one to two millions sterling; and it is very necessary to secure that receipt and the application of the money in proper and responsible hands.

"It is also very necessary, in the instructions to be set to the provisional government, to observe the principles so well recommended by Depors as peculiarly adapted to South America. 'Ils consistent à ne fronder aucun préjugé, à respecter

les usages, et à s'assujetir aux coutumes locales."

Private.—"I have happened to hear from good authority that Lord Eldon's journey (or journeys) to Windsor was (or were) not relative to the Princess, but professedly on the subject of a new will which the king is making, and on which Lord Eldon had heretofore been consulted. I do not learn, however, that the conference was confined to testamentary discussion.

"Will you have the goodness to return that secret paper, as I must send it back, after taking a note of some of the expressions.

"Unless you have commands, I shall hardly go to town to-morrow, but on Monday, when I am to meet Mr. Monroe

and Mr. Pinckney at eleven."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 19. Wimbledon.—"I have just received the statement intended to be submitted to Windham. It is perfectly well drawn for its object, but I feel that we are not acting kindly to him; and if he should reject this proposal, I cannot concur in pressing it to his exclusion from office.

"I had a good deal of conversation yesterday with Lord Holland, and am to see him again this morning in my way to town, which will make me rather later than I intended;

but I will see you before one."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, September 19. Downing Street.—" When I mentioned to you a short time since the idea of your taking a peerage I did it only in order to learn what your own sentiments were on the subject, and with the fullest desire that the question should be decided entirely by your wishes. Having expressed this feeling to you, and having learnt from you that your disposition was to decline the suggestion, I hope you will give me credit for the real pain which I feel from being obliged once more to bring the same idea under your consideration. can with the greatest truth assure you that I do it with extreme reluctance, and those with whom I have communicated on the subject can bear me witness how anxiously I have laboured to find some suggestion that might relieve me from that necessity, and at the same time afford a reasonable prospect of forming some practicable frame of government under our present difficulties. I have consulted with almost every one of our colleagues, and it is with their concurrence, particularly with that of Lord Howick, Lord Sidmouth, Lord Spencer, and Lord Moira, that I now send you the inclosed statement which contains our united opinions on this interesting subject. And for myself I beg to assure you with the utmost sincerity that, if we are unable to obtain your concurrence to this proposal, I must abandon all hope of being able to offer to the King any plan for the formation of a government out of the present materials. It was not until I had ascertained the impossibility of doing this that I could feel myself at liberty to press upon you this proposal after you had declined it; but, being convinced that the fact is so, it is a duty which I owe no less to yourself than to the rest of our friends to state it as it is." Copy.

Enclosure.

"In the state in which the administration is placed by Mr. Fox's death, the following arrangement is, on the fullest consideration, judged to afford the only practicable means of carrying on a government composed of the same parties as at present:—

Lord Howick. Foreign Seals with the lead in the House of Commons.

Mr. Grenville. Home Do. Lord Spencer. Admiralty.

Lord Fitzwilliam. Cabinet—but desires to retire from

Lord Sidmouth. Lord President. Lord Holland. Privy Seal.

Mr. Tierney and India Board and Mint.

Mr. Bragge

and Mr. Whitbread—Secretary of War, as soon as that office can be vacated by some professional object for General

Fitzpatrick.

"This arrangement rests for its foundation on the decided conviction of all the persons who are parties to this statement that there is an indispensable necessity of placing both Lord Howick and Mr. Grenville in the situation of Secretaries of State; and on the fullest persuasion that neither the just weight of the respective parties composing the Government, nor the full benefit of their mutual co-operation, can be obtained under any distribution of office in which that object is not provided for. The subject has been repeatedly considered in this view, and every possible suggestion carefully examined; and it is on the deliberate result of that examination that this point is stated as absolutely indispensable to the formation of a government to be composed of the present materials.

"One only difficulty obstructs the immediate adoption of this plan; and it is one for the solution of which they are compelled to have recourse to the assistance and friendship of Mr. Windham. By the Civil List Act three Secretaries of State cannot sit together in the House of Commons. The removal of Lord Howick into the House of Lords will be so great a misfortune that no idea can be entertained of anticipating its necessary occurrence. That of Mr. Grenville is equally out of the question, as either of these steps would, in the present moment defeat the sole object, which renders these appointments necessary, in the judgment of those by whom this subject has been so fully considered.

"It is known to all the persons who are parties to this statement that a peerage is not considered by Mr. Windham as an object desirable to himself. It is not, therefore, in that view that they can renew the suggestion which they understand to have already been made to him on that head. His known sentiments on this subject lead them, on the contrary, to use every possible endeavour to frame some arrangement which might have put that proposal out of view. The whole time of the persons concerned, and their whole attention has been occupied with this object; and the final decision has been postponed for it from day to day, until it appeared evident that nothing could now be suggested which had not been repeatedly reconsidered, and until further

impracticable.

"In this state it is that, with the greatest reluctance they feel themselves obliged to recur to the same idea as the only one by which the otherwise insurmountable difficulties in the way of any arrangement can be removed; and they are compelled to ask from Mr. Windham's friendship whether he will not consent to it, not as an object in any way personally agreeable to himself, but as the greatest accommodation which can be afforded to those with whom he is connected in Government, and as the only means by which that Government can possibly continue to subsist after the irreparable loss it has recently sustained." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 19. Arlington Street.—"Since Lord Sidmouth left me, at which time I had not received your letter and paper, I have been employed in some business, not admitting of delay, relative to orders about troops.

"You will easily believe how much pain it gives me to resist a request urged on the seore of so many public and so many private considerations, the latter being of a sort to weigh with me quite as much in the present instance as the former; but there are points so deeply involving all one's future comforts and prospects that no claims either of private friendship, which I beg you to feel assured is not wanting on this occasion, or of political duty, can fairly call upon me to

"I am sorry to say that the present is one of them. question rested merely upon my own private happiness I am afraid it would not be possible for me to consent. But I feel that I should be making a sacrifice of credit as well as of comfort, and that no explanation which could possibly be given, could put the transaction upon a footing on which I should stand as well in future either in my own esteem or in that of the public.

"One of the first points wanting for this purpose would be a conviction that the measure was necessary for any object

of public benefit.

I cannot see what end could be answered by my removal to the House of Peers that would not equally be answered by my withdrawing altogether from an official situation, and I have not a hesitation in saying which of the two I should prefer. I must freely say, moreover, that I do not see what great advantage would be obtained by either arrangement. The whole difference seems to be the more direct effect which your brother would have, as a representative of you, speaking in the situation of Secretary of State, or in that of head of the Board of Control. Nothing has happened to make your weight in the House of Commons less than it was before. On the contrary as far as sides in the Government are to be considered, which happily they never yet have been, the immense deduction made recently from one side would naturally have the effect of throwing an additional preponderance into the other. The motive therefore does not seem to me to exist; and, at all events, could apply only to situations which I hope are far distant, and of which, for my own part, I have never discovered the smallest trace.

"But giving to this motive all the weight that could by possibility belong to it, and far more than I can persuade myself it possesses, I must, I fear, still say that, much as I would do from personal friendship to you, anxious as I am for the interests of the Administration, I cannot consent to a step so contrary to all my most settled opinions, so destructive of all my private satisfaction, and so injurious, as I am convinced it would prove,

to my general estimation in the country.

"With all deference to the authority of those whose opinions you quote, and with whose wishes as well as opinions I should be disposed to comply as much as with almost any that could be adduced, I must still remain incredulous in a great degree to the necessity of any step at all; but clearly convinced, as in a matter merely personal, that there is no way in which the difficulty would not be solved more satisfactorily to me than in the one proposed."

Private. C. GODDARD to THE SAME.

1806, September 19. Paris.—"I beg leave to draw your lordship's attention generally to the Publiciste, which we now send, and shall continue to do so regularly, as it is a paper which Bonaparte usually selects for his own political compositions whenever he does not wish them to appear as official. Such is the article from Hamburgh in the Publiciste of to-day, which I have marked with ink; and another in a former Publiciste also marked, and sent by this messenger.

"Talleyrand is at this moment with Lord Lauderdale, who, after having been confined almost constantly to his bed for the last week by a nervous fever, has risen to-day to receive him. Talleyrand has been so repeatedly pressed of late to give something in writing that I doubt not he will do it to-day. The news of Buenos Ayres is exactly what they

dreaded here, and it has made a great impression.

"I have been to the Boulogne panorama this morning to see whether any drawing that would be useful could be made from it, agreeably to Lord Howick's wish. My opinion is that such drawing, if intended to represent the actual lying of the vessels, would deceive; for I am satisfied that, when I passed through a month ago, the vessels were drawn much higher up the creek than the panorama represents them. I doubt even whether the bearings of the harbour could be obtained from such a copy; for the part most useful to be known, which winds in a curve round the town, and approaches near the base of the hill (over which the road to Paris passes, and from which there is an admirable view of the whole harbour) is hid in the panorama from the point where the spectator is supposed to stand, by the buildings of the town. I should fear therefore that it might mislead."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 19. Arlington Street.—"Since the close of my former letter I have had a conversation with Elliot, and have tried, upon the strength of considerations which he has pointed out, to bring myself to a determination more conformable to your wishes and, of consequence, to my own. I beg you to feel assured how much, from personal feelings towards you, I should be desirous of concurring in the arrangement which you think so necessary. But after all that Elliot has said, not as enforcing the general result, but pointing out reasons which very naturally did not find a place in the paper which you enclosed to me, I still cannot see the necessity for the precise arrangement which you propose; though I can see why others, which occur in lieu of it, were liable to objections which did not at first present themselves, at least to the degree in which he has since shown them to exist. It is difficult to find a substitute for Lord Spencer; but why is it so absolutely necessary that Lord Spencer should not continue? One expedient occurs which does not indeed prevent our going beyond the pale of our own friends, but saves us from the necessity of borrowing anything from the enemy, I mean Lord Chichester. Lord Chichester is a man perfectly creditable, and perfectly safe, and who would execute the business of the Admiralty very satisfactorily to the country, and, I believe, very usefully. In the Home Department he might not be sufficiently Catholic.

"I am anxious, if possible, to diminish the difficulty; for you may believe me that to see you in difficulties, and refuse relief which is said to be in my power, is a situation of no

small distress to me.

"The relief proposed cannot, indeed, be said not to be in my power, but it is in my power only as it is said sometimes to be in the power of a daughter to make her parents happy by marrying the man she abhors.

"I by no means accuse you individually, or any of those who concurred in the same opinions, of being those cruel parents who were indifferent to my happiness, or willing to

sacrifice it to any considerations but such as affected me equally with yourselves. But it is I only who can judge of my own repugnance, or perhaps who can see to its full extent the effect which the step in question would have on those very powers and that very consequence, such as they are, which would make me of any value in public life, and which, in or out of office, I shall hope always to see

exerted in the company in which I am now acting.

"There is certainly no party object for which, on every principle of feeling as well as of duty, I would sacrifice half so much as for the advantage and security of the present Administration; nor any individual in public life for whose political credit and personal satisfaction I feel more than for yours. I startle at the reply to be made, that I am refusing to promote both these when I refuse to consent to the arrangement now proposed. I can only hope that the refusal will be ascribed to the strength of the objection, and not to the want of those sentiments, both public and private, which would prompt me to concurrence with anything which you had at heart.

"I send my letter without having read it over, but the only thing of importance in it is that it should do justice to

my sentiments."

Postscript.—"It has just occurred to me that the mention of Lord Chichester may appear to have been a suggestion of Elliot. I don't know that it would be the worse on that account; but it is well to know that what he would probably concur in had presented itself in the first instance to others."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, September 20. Admiralty.—"The Leander being come home, I desired that the necessary measures might be taken for the trial of Captain Whitby, in pursuance of the resolution of the Cabinet at the time of receiving the intelligence of the unfortunate event which took place off the harbour of New York. The opinion of the law officers with respect to the mode of proceeding was accordingly taken. This opinion I now send you, and wish to consider whether it will be more expedient to try Captain Whitby by a court martial, or at an Admiralty sessions. I incline to the court martial, which has the decided advantage of expedition, and I should hope there would not be much danger of a conviction. On the other hand a simple acquittal might occasion discontent to the Americans."

Private and confidential. The Same to The Same.

1806, September 20. Admiralty.—"Our difficulties have been the subject of my most serious consideration, and there seem to me, since the failure of the proposal to Windham, to be only three modes of arrangement by which they can be obviated.

1st Lord Spencer
Lord Howick
Mr. Windham
Mr. Grenville.
Lord Sidmouth.
Lord Holland.

Secretaries.
Admiralty.
President.
Privy Seal.

"This comes the nearest to the plan already proposed, and I see no insuperable objection to it (though I admit that a change of the offices proposed for Lord Spencer and Mr. Grenville would have been more desirable) except the dislike of Mr. Grenville to the Admiralty.

Privy Seal.

2nd Lord Holland
Mr. Grenville
Mr. Windham
Lord Howick.
Lord Spencer.

Secretaries.
Admiralty.
President.

Lord Sidmouth.

"To this arrangement there may be two objections; 1st, the unwillingness of Lord Spencer to take the office of President; 2nd, the difficulty which I might find in adding to the business of this office that of the House of Commons. With respect to the first, feeling as I do the greatest regard for Lord Spencer, I should say, as in the case of Windham, that I would propose it, but not press it against his will. For though I cannot think the sacrifice required by any means equal to that which Windham was called upon to make, I should be equally unwilling to press it with any degree of distressing importunity. As to myself I can only say that distrusting as I do to the greatest degree my own powers, even under the most favourable circumstances, to take the lead in the House of Commons, I feel the importance of maintaining the Administration upon its own ground so much, that I am ready to make great personal sacrifices for that Some arrangement, perhaps, may be made to facilitate and to divide the labour of this office; and if no other expedient can be hit upon, I will endeavour, remaining as I am, to discharge the duties of a more active attendance than I was able to give last session, in the House of Commons. If this arrangement should be found practicable, it has the advantage of placing the Government on a footing on which it may rest without any material change upon my removal to the House of Lords.

3rd Lord Holland
George Ponsonby
Mr. Windham
Lord Spencer.
Lord Howick
and
Lord Sidmouth

Secretaries.

Admiralty.
President
and
Privy Seal.

"I have proposed myself as President, because it is the office I should like best of the two, and because my holding

no office might look like an abandonment of the Administration. I am, however, very willing to remain in the House of Commons, either with or without a seat in the Cabinet, in which case I should most strenuously urge the appointment of Lord Lauderdale as Privy Seal; or, if Lord Sidmouth should attach much value to the office of President, I certainly should make no difficulty on

that point.

"This third plan I foresee will startle you; but upon the whole I believe it will be the best. Sacrifices must be made by somebody, and those which I have offered will be made with the most perfect satisfaction. George Ponsonby I am persuaded will prove, if not at first, after a very short time, the most effective leader of the House of Commons; and according to this arrangement no further changes would be necessary. It would, it is true, leave the Mint only to be disposed of in the House of Commons, for which I should recommend Tierney, not because he is my friend, but because I know you would derive more effectual assistance from him than from any other person. With George Ponsonby, Tierney and Garrow, who might be made Solicitor, if Piggott should take the Irish Seals, I have no doubt that you would gain a much greater accession of strength in debate, than by any other means. All that I ask therefore is that you will not discard this proposition without giving it a very serious

"Of the three plans I think the second would be the most acceptable to Fox's friends; and that the last, whatever surprise it may at first create, would ultimately prove the most advantageous. As far as I am myself concerned I am ready to accede to any one of the three, if no other arrangement should suggest itself to you. My wish is to make all personal considerations subservient to the general interest of the Government; but I could not give you any useful support if I should, at the present moment, appear to Fox's friends to have consented to too great a sacrifice of their influence; and I take it to be on this account absolutely indispensable in any arrangement which may be made, that the foreign seals should be held either by Lord Holland or myself. I must at the same time declare with the most perfect sincerity that I should infinitely prefer seeing them in his hands to holding them myself

"In the course of this letter, so much too long already, I have said nothing of Whitbread. He has, as you know already, refused the only offer which has been made to him. I hope, however, that this refusal may not be conclusive; and whenever the Secretaryship at War, or any other office not less in rank, shall be opened, it will be most gratifying to me to have it again proposed, with any such additional inducements as can with propriety be held out to him"

Private. EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 21. St. Albans.—"As I was coming down here yesterday you may easily suppose that my head ran a good deal upon the subject which for so long a time has occupied our thoughts, and I really think that I have hit upon an idea which, though it may perhaps not entirely meet with yours in all respects, yet is such as, in all the most essential practicable parts of the arrangement, may be adopted. Not to detain you with a longer preface, my proposal is that Lord Howick should remain (as long as he is in the House of Commons) at the Admiralty; that Lord Holland should have his uncle's seals; and that I should succeed to Lord Fitzwilliam, making room for Tom Grenville in the Home Department. In that case Tierney ought to have the India Board, and an arrangement should be made for opening the Secretary at War for Whitbread, if he chooses to take it; if not Bathurst should go there whenever General Fitzpatrick can be provided for. I do not see why this might not be looked upon as a permanent disposition; but, however, as your partiality to me has led you to suppose that my being at the Admiralty will give more strength to your government, if at the time of Lord Grey's death my health and other necessary circumstances should admit of it, I shall readily acquiesce in then either changing with Lord Howick, or with Lord Sidmouth, or Lord Holland (as the case may be) to make way for Lord Howick's removal to the Foreign Department.

This proposal removes the difficulty about the three secretaries, saves the difficulty about Ireland and Scotland, obviates the objection of replacing Lord Howick by Tom Grenville (to which he has so much objection) or by any other person who would not meet the public opinion, and gives our colleagues in office to the full as great a weight in the Government as I think they can pretend to expect; at the same time that it relieves me, I assure you, from the duties of a situation in which, from the little experience I have had

of it, I feel very little inclination to continue.

"I must beg of you to show this letter to your brother, or brothers if Lord Buckingham is still in town; but do not hastily listen to any objections they may make to it; for, though perhaps I may be willing to allow that it is not the best possible proposal which could have been made ab origine, circumstanced as we now are, I most sincerely feel it to be the least objectionable that can be suggested; far less objectionable, I am convinced, than throwing up the whole as lost; a measure against which I think our sense of public duty at least should deter us, till we had tried every possible expedient consistent with public duty, and private honour; and that we shall not have done, if we leave this, which I now propose, untried."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, September 21. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville begs leave humbly to request your Majesty's gracious permission to pay his duty to your Majesty at Windsor on Tuesday next, at any hour that your Majesty may have the goodness to appoint, in order that he may have the honour humbly to submit for your Majesty's consideration the ideas that have occurred to him respecting the arrangements consequent upon Mr. Fox's death." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 21. Wimbledon.—"The arrangement being decided upon, it is undoubtedly right that no time should be lost in laying it before the King. I must once more express a wish that it could have been so made as to have exempted me from a responsibility which terrifies me; but having said this for the last time, I will do my best.

"I told Tierney, in consequence of the authority you gave me, that he might choose between the India Board and the Mint, and I am not sure that he has made up his mind. I will thank you therefore not to decide finally as to the distribution of these two offices, till I have had an opportunity of speaking to him. If the difficulties to which you allude are those connected with the questions respecting Lord Wellesley, it certainly will be necessary for you to have a fair explanation with Tierney. I believe he took no part in these questions last year.

"I have at present no hope that Whitbread can be induced to take the Secretaryship at War, nor does there seem to me any possibility of bringing George Ponsonby back into the

House of Commons except in the way I mentioned.

"You could not have proposed to me any appointment in which I should more readily acquiesce than that of Lord Morpeth to any situation abroad which he may wish to fill; and I cannot have a moment's hesitation in fulfilling any engagement entered into by you and Fox, with Lord Darnley. "Your brother probably has no particular connections in

"Your brother probably has no particular connections in the navy; and I think it a duty to state that it is in my opinion of the greatest importance that Markham should remain at the Admiralty. Sir Philip ought to go at any rate; and he would make room for any person your brother may wish to introduce there."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, September 21. Admiralty.—" I had overlooked your letter of the 18th enclosing a letter from Mr. Fulton, and I see the day is already passed when he states he should consider your silence as proof of a determination not to enter into any farther consideration of his schemes. This I am satisfied is the right answer, and I cannot regret your not

having had the trouble of writing it; the reasons given by the arbitrators in their letter to Mr. King against purchasing his silence upon a subject which can be no secret, or what if it was, we could have no security for his keeping, being to my mind quite satisfactory. I therefore cannot think it

necessary to make any further reference.

"I have desired another question to be put upon Captain Whitby's case to the law officers, namely, whether he cannot be tried under the general article for a breach of duty, as well as upon a charge of murder. I have no doubt upon this point myself, and I think it will be better to have a second charge of the nature I have described, in order to prevent a total acquittal. Ought not notice of the prosecution to be given to the American ministers, to enable them, if they please, to come forward as prosecutors?"

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 22. Phænix Park.—"Lord Waterford is, as I am informed, now in Dublin, and of course anxious for a decision on the subject of the Derry collectorship. Your lordship will therefore excuse my once more urging a speedy determination that I may have it in my power to communicate

the intentions of government to Lord Waterford.

"Immediately on the receipt of your lordship's letter intimating a probability that Lord Percy might offer himself for Westminster, in the event of that great public calamity which has since befallen the country, and which we have all deeply to deplore, I wrote to my agent in London requesting him to use his utmost exertions in favour of Lord Percy, and I earnestly hope that no contest may be provoked, and that he may be elected without trouble or opposition."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, September 22. Downing Street.—"I took the first opportunity of submitting to the consideration of the rest of the King's servants the subject of your grace's letter, marked private, of the 15th instant; and it is in consequence of their unanimous opinion, concurring entirely with my own, that I now express to your grace that with every desire, for various considerations, to have facilitated the completion of an object so much wished by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, and which they readily conceive would also be so agreeable to your grace's private feelings, they could not consistently with their public duty recommend that the general principle adopted by the present Government, after much consideration, respecting reversionary grants, should be departed from in the present case." Copy.

THE SAME to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, September 22. Downing Street.—"Your Royal Highness will, I hope, permit me to express my most humble and

grateful acknowledgments for the great goodness and condescension of the letter with which your Royal Highness has honoured me. After much anxious discussion of the arrangements to be made in consequence of the irreparable loss which the Government has sustained, the following plan has been judged to be on the whole the best, and it is to be submitted to-morrow for his Majesty's consideration. I anxiously hope that it may be honoured with your Royal Highness's approbation.

"Lord Fitzwilliam has expressed a desire to retire from office, but is ready to retain his seat in the Cabinet. This will make an opening for Lord Holland's having the Privy Seal, by removing Lord Sidmouth to be President of the Council. Mr. Fox will be suceeeded by Lord Howick, and the latter by my brother Mr. Grenville. The India Board and the Mint (which we shall be obliged to vacate) will, I trust, afford openings for bringing forward Mr. Tierney and Mr. Bragge Bathurst.

"We shall certainly have a strong and an active Opposition in the House of Commons, but I have little doubt of our being

able, with this arrangement, to meet it." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 22. Admiralty.—"Tierney will take the India Board, and will attend you at any time you please. From what has just now passed between us, I have no fear that your conversation with him respecting Lord Wellesley, upon the liberal footing upon which you put that question, will not be perfectly satisfactory."

LORD GRENVILLE to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

of very anxious discussion as to the best plan of arrangements to be made in consequence of the irreparable loss we have sustained, the following has been thought, upon the whole, the most adviseable, and I trust it will meet with your approbation. We propose to avail ourselves of the kind and liberal offer you have made, provided you will allow us still to consider you as a member of the Cabinet, a condition to which we all annex the highest importance, and which I trust you will not refuse. If this can be done, an opening may then be made for Lord Holland's being Privy Seal, by removing Lord Sidmouth to your present office. The rest of the arrangements would be, Lord Howick, Sccretary of State for the Foreign Department; Mr. Grenville, Admiralty; and Tierney and Bragge Bathurst, India Board and Mint.

"This arrangement is not entirely satisfactory to me, because I think the public naturally expected that Lord Spencer should return to the Admiralty whenever Lord Howick vacated it. But this was impracticable on account

of the Civil List Act, which prevents three Secretaries of State from sitting in the House of Commons. Whenever (unfortunately for the Government) Lord Howick succeeds to his father's peerage, Lord Spencer and Mr. G[renville] may then change places, and in the meantime what is now proposed is, I believe, the best that was practicable.

"We have dispatches this morning from Lauderdale, which are rather of a pacific complexion; but we are still at a

considerable distance from a conclusion." Copy.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

1806, September 22. Downing Street.—"You will probably hear from Lord Howick, by this messenger, the arrangements which have been yesterday finally settled respecting the Government. He succeeds to the Foreign Seals, and is succeeded at the Admiralty by my brother, which opens the India Board for Tierney. Lord Fitzwilliam at his own desire retires from office, but remains in the Cabinet. Lord Sidmouth succeeds to the Presidentship of the Council, and Lord Holland to the Privy Seal. I trust you will think this arrangement as good as under all circumstances it could be made. I regret that Lord Spencer could not take the Admiralty and my brother the Home Seals, but that is impossible so long as the two other Secretarics of State remain in the House of Commons.

"Lord Spencer writes to you to-day about Prussia. She has offered us Hanover at a peace, though still under some reserves which will, I am confident, disappear the moment Lord Morpeth or whoever else we send to Berlin arrives there. If this is done we shall not have to owe Hanover to France but Prussia. Her demand of the French troops withdrawing from Germany is one to which we are already pledged, and we therefore risk nothing by supporting it. My hope is that all this will tend to discussions for a general peace, which can never be satisfactorily concluded unless all the great Powers are parties to the negotiation in substance, if not in form. What a blunder the King of Prussia has made in sending at

such a moment such a man as Knobelsdorf to Paris.

"I always felt great reluctance to the embarking in South American projects because I knew it was much easier to get into them than out again. The capture of Buenos Ayres, trumpeted up as it has been by Popham and his agents, has already produced such an impression here as will make the surrender of that conquest most extremely difficult, unless one could get much more for it in the way of security in Europe than I know how to shape or expect. At all events we are clearly entitled to include it in our *uti* possidetis, or to ask its full value for it. I hope now that the Government is once more set on foot in a regular form, we shall soon be able to instruct you more precisely on these points; but you may conceive how difficult this has been with all else we have had to do since our great loss." Copy.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL H. TAYLOR to LORD GRENVILLE,

1806, September 22. Windsor Castle.—"As the King hesitated in regard to fixing the hour, wishing to name that most convenient to your lordship, I mentioned to his Majesty the contents of the note which I had the honour of receiving from you, and the time which he has appointed in consequence is the most convenient to himself, as it is immediately after his ride, whilst he thought that it would also suit your lordship.

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, September 22. Arlington Street.—"I called soon after I parted from you, wishing to submit to you the enclosed note from Gordon. If troops are to be sent to the Continent, it may be as well to keep the Germans here; but the sending troops to the Continent, however desirable in some views, is a measure to be paused upon. Our force in the present case can be little in the scale of continental armies, and the expense is enormous. The very transports for 10,000 cavalry, hired as they must be for three months, will be 2,400,0001.

"A little doubt likewise arises on reflection about a new commander for Buenos Ayres, and Sir A. Wellesley. Think of it at least for four and twenty hours. The command likely to be left at Buenos Ayres, allotting 3,000 to Crawfurd, will not be so much in all as 5,000. Beresford has done incomparably well, and Sir A. Wellesley will not be popular, though probably really very proper. I am myself very little a judge of his qualifications."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, September 23. Dropmore.—"The expense of transports which you state is so very far beyond any idea I could have formed, that I quite agree with you as to the necessity

of pausing before such a step is taken.

If we desist from all idea of acting on the Continent we shall then probably reinforce ourselves still further in South America; for the moment of a fresh explosion on the Continent must not be lost to us. We will talk again about Wellesley, I did not write to him, and I certainly would not press anything improper for him; but I have so very high an opinion of his talents and military knowledge, and particularly of his powers of exciting spirit and confidence in his troops, which I have heard so very strongly stated by indifferent persons, that I am very desirous of his being employed there if the scale of our operations be large enough for him." Copy.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 23. Camelford House.—"I wish to lose no time in informing you that my brother Arthur will be very happy to serve in the regular course of his rank, and that he is extremely anxious for employment. He would certainly be particularly glad to serve on the continent of Europe. His great solicitude however is for early employment."

H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 24. Doncaster.—"I have many thanks to return you for the kind communications I have just received. Your attention to me upon this and upon every other occasion afford me most sincere gratification. I am aware of the necessity which called for these arrangements to be made with as little delay as possible, and I trust that they are such as to give satisfaction to everybody; and it shall be my study to aid and strengthen your endeavours by every means in my power."

Private. VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, September 24. Admiralty.—" I cannot help troubling you with the enclosed letter from the Comptroller of the Navy. His object is to be made a baronet to which, as that rank was given to his predecessor, and is held by one of the inferior members of the Board, he seems to have a fair pretension; and he has the further claim of meritorious service and severe wounds. If you will mention him to-day to the King, together with Sir Edward Berry, I shall be obliged to you.

"I have never spoken to Lord Fitzwilliam upon the subject of his advancement to the rank of marquis. It is probably a point about which he is not very solicitous; but it would be a peculiar gratification to me to have the title of Marquis of Rockingham offered to him; to which, when I before mentioned it to you, you seemed to express no objection

"I take it for granted the King has made no objection to the proposed arrangement."

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, September 24. Downing Street.—"The King received me yesterday in the most gracious manner, kept me two hours with him, and appeared perfectly satisfied with every

part of the arrangement.

"I am persuaded there can be no difficulty about Lord Fitzwilliam's being made a marquis. Baronets are more difficult. We have made two batches since we came in, and I have a list of I know not how many more to make whenever it can decently be done." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 24. Admiralty.—"I think that Lord H. Petty would, on every account, be the best person to go to Berlin. My only doubts arose from the uncertainty of

his getting back in time for the meeting of Parliament (which is of double importance as neither your brother, Ticrney, or myself will be able to take our seats for some days) and from our having already sent to Drummond. Drummond, however is not in town, but I expect him at the Foreign Office to-morrow morning. If therefore you think that he would like Sicily as well, that mission may be proposed to him, and Lord Henry may undertake this to Berlin. I will endeavour to frame instructions for him to-night, and, if you will give me leave, will call on you to consider of them in the morning. I am little conversant in the forms belonging to matters of this kind, and shall have for some time to apply to you for assistance."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, September 24. Office for Trade.—"I have worked hard during some days both with the American Commissioners and at the committee of Council in order to feel at liberty to absent myself for a fortnight. And having made a clear board, I hope that I may go this afternoon to Mr. Cowper's at Zeuric Water near Welwyn. On Friday after the post we proceed to Gogmagog Hills near Cambridge; and on Tuesday after the post to Norton near Lincoln; and towards the end of the following week I shall be resettled here and at Eden Farm.

"I sent your French paper to Sir Joseph Banks, who is to

meet me for a day at Norton."

Private.—"So far as I collect your arrangements from the newspaper which bears some marks of authenticity, I like them much; and it only remains to consolidate the system of efficient conduct in the House of Commons. I hope that

poor Lord Charles falls on a bed of down.

"I submit to you that in delicacy we (or I) should say something to Lord Howick as to his resuming to his office the American negotiation, if he shall think proper. I like him much, and have reason to believe that the regard is returned on his part; still it seems to be a right attention."

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to THE SAME.

1806, September 24. Doncaster.—"The arrangements are such as I foresaw, and I believe them the best that could be made. I had my fears that Mr. Grenville would not have undertaken the labours of the Admiralty. I make no compliment of my own retreat from office, as I am free to say that I look upon it as a release; but on the present occasion it is even more than that, as I derive the greatest satisfaction in making room for Lord Holland. I should have felt much regret had he not been included in the arrangement; a thousand circumstances peculiar to the present moment made it necessary, in addition to the still more forcible reasons of

private feelings. I am happy in retaining a seat in the Cabinet for many reasons. I suppose the part of the arrangement in which I am concerned will not take place till I have been with the King. I shall be in town for the 7th October; this will

give an opportunity of sceing the King the next day.

"The Prince is here and very unwell. He has been so during the whole of his tour; he has lost all appetite, and even taste for wine; for the last fortnight he has neither tasted meat nor wine. He was deeply affected with the death of Fox, and has never recovered his spirits since. When first I saw him, it was very manifest how much he felt on the occasion. But to return to his health. We got Walker, formerly his apothecary in London, but now retired in Yorkshire, to see him. From a strong full pulse, he found it quite thin, low, and weak. He thinks him seriously unwell, and that he requires much attention and repose; whether he will be persuaded manage himself, as he ought to do, is more than I feel confident of. Intending to attend the funeral, he has altered his plan; he does not go to Wentworth from hence, but intends making one or two visits to gentlemen of the neighbourhood before he goes to town, and says that he shall return into the North to make the visits he had promised. I wish I could prevail upon him to go immediately to town by short journeys, but I have little hopes of being able to do so.

"I don't take so much pleasure in the pacific complexion of Lauderdale's dispatches, as I do in what follows, 'that we

are still at a considerable distance from a conclusion.'

"As long as there is a prospect of an effort being made by Prussia, I do not wish to see G[reat] B[ritain] at peace; peace made at this juncture will throw such a damp on all Europe that Europe will submit without a struggle. I do not pretend to say that my hopes of success by war are great, but bad as the chance is, it is the only one, and the alternative is either to submit tamely, or to die gloriously. Whatever may be the odds against the latter, it should be tried; our peace would prevent it."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 25. Admiralty.—" Pray look over the enclosed draft, and make such alterations as you may think necessary, above all shorten it if it can be done. I shall be much obliged to you also to see that the draft for the

Admiralty is in the proper form.

"What shall I say to Drummond if he comes to town before we have an opportunity of further considering about Petty, or seeing him? Is there not a difficulty arising out of the nature of his office, and would it not be necessary, if he should go, for some other person to hold, ad interim, the seal of the Exchequer? I suppose Drummond having been already mentioned to the King is a matter of no consequence. I

should wish to have five minutes conversation upon these and some other matters at any hour this morning that you will appoint."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, September 25. Eden Farm.—"I enclose a secret packet, which may deserve your perusal, and I beg the favour of you to return it to me. The statement is not unfair on the whole, and I am glad to collect from it that the parties do not expect any very sudden conclusion. Lord Holland's two papers on the questions respecting neutral rights and American seamen were probably left by you at Dropmore; at least they have not yet been returned to me."

Confidential.—"I mentioned to you that an application would probably come from a law quarter for a next reversion of a certain office. I ought to have added, though it can scarcely escape your remark, that the whole nature of that claim or pretension is changed by the Act of Parliament which has secured the eventual retreat of 4,000l. per annum, and that

Act affords a complete answer.

"The Speaker dined and slept here last night. If your dependent arrangements should remove all competitors for the chair, I mean your brother and Tierney, I submit to you that it would be very material in many points of view to have a complete and cordial good understanding with the Speaker; and I think I could answer to secure his cordial and friendly support, efficiently and systematically. Hitherto, and from a natural distrust, it has been only a 'half-faced fellowship.' The great object of securing the confidence and concurrence of Parliament is, I think, at this moment attainable; but, in order to its being attained, there are many considerations to be adverted to. I have a letter this morning from the Duke of Marlborough in which there is the following sentence, 'now that Mr. Fox is gone, Francis and Burton may be expected to support government cordially'; there are many other individuals similarly circumstanced, and those, on the other hand, who may be estranged from us by that event, will be comparatively few.

"I am to be in town on Saturday probably, and on Monday and Wednesday certainly; and on the Wednesday I hope it may be practicable to adjourn the committee of Council and the American discussions for a fortnight, in order to make a very short excursion to Gogmagog and to Lincolnshire."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, September 26. Downing Street.—"I have this morning seen the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and have stated to him that, on a consideration of all the circumstance, I cannot but think it best for the interests of government to carry into effect the proposed division of the collectorship, and

to dispose of that of the city in favour of Lord Waterford's friend. He represented against it, but in the close of our conversation it was considered as so settled; and I think therefore it is desirable to carry it into effect as soon as

possible.

"I have not troubled you on the subject of the arrangements consequent upon the great loss we have sustained, but it would be an extreme satisfaction to me to learn that they meet your approbation. I have the pleasure to think that they give very general satisfaction here, and that there is every prospect of a continuance of the same perfect union and good understanding with which all matters have been carried on ever since the formation of the Government.

"I am much obliged by your ready compliance with my request respecting Lord Percy, and I have every reason to hope that his election will be attended with as little trouble as one can ever hope in such a place as Westminster." Copy.

Private. The Earl of Lauderdale to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 26. Paris.—" I can never forget your kind letter on the subject of Fox's death. I shall preserve it as one of the strongest encomiums on the character of the man I

loved most on earth.

"I am afraid that I have erred a little on the subject of Buenos Ayres; at least I am apprehensive of it from the tenor of the despatch I last received. I confess, however, that I had not the least idea that it was meant to be included in the *uti possidetis*; and I was led to that conception not only by the circumstance I have mentioned in my public letter, that there was no instruction concerning it in the despatch of the 14th instant giving me an account of the capture, but from the following passage in your lordship's private letter of the same date: 'Of Buenos Ayres I say nothing except that it may, I think, tend to facilitate peace, or to afford an opening for measures that will make a deep impression in France. My earnest wish is that you may be able to make use of it effectually for the first of these objects.'

"I trust, however, this will be of no essential importance, as I have given the negotiation as much as possible the appearance of going off on Russian objects, for the purpose of giving our Court an opportunity of binding Russia more closely; the advantages of which appear to me great in the extreme.

"If indeed France should yield on all the topics I have put forward (which cannot be expected), I might have greater reason to regret my misapprehension. At the same time, I cannot think but that, if all the objects stated in my public despatch are conceded, and the war on the Continent prevented, Great Britain will make such a figure as could not be surpassed by your lordship's most sanguine expectations.

"I have no business to give my opinion, but I cannot avoid expressing my doubts on the subject of the prudence of uniting

too closely our interests with those of Prussia. Next to this court, it is the one in Europe of which I should be the most diffident; and I must say that, in the present instance, in addition to my doubts of its honesty, I have doubts of its power.

"Though better in health, I remain unaccountably weak.

I have stood the work of to-day, however, well."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD ELLENBOROUGH.

1806, September 26. Downing Street.—"I should have had very sincere satisfaction in being enabled to meet your wishes with respect to Mr. Burns, but in arranging the establishment of the new Auditors' Office, I have found the claims upon the Government so numerous and urgent that I have been prevented from paying that attention to your lordship's wishes which I should have been happy to have had it in my power to do." Copy.

THE SAME to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, September 26. Downing Street.—"I find on enquiry that the Privy Council will probably sit again for hearing prize causes about the middle of November, and if therefore Sir J. Anstruther is in town any time before that, there will be an opportunity of swearing him in as a Privy Councillor.

"Lord Sidmouth, who is about to undertake the office of President of the Council, has expressed to me the greatest satisfaction in the prospect of Sir J. Anstruther's assistance

there, which will also be highly agreeable to me.

"With respect to the expectations mentioned in his letter, I can only repeat to you what I said to him, that this must in some degree depend upon means for which I cannot answer; but for my disposition to do all that is practicable I can most safely answer, and without the least reserve." Copy.

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, September 27. Downing Street.—"I have just heard that Holland is desirous of selling his property at Oakhampton, which comprehends a house, with a most beautiful park and ruined castle, and other valuable contingencies in the newspaper style. I know not whether those contingencies may not, in Richard's situation, be an object of great value to him in the different circumstances in which he may be placed.

"The distance of the residence would, I should fear, be inconvenient to you; its beauty I can answer for; and Richard probably saw it in his western tour, though I forgot

whether we did or not.

"When do you return to town? I have particular business

to talk about with you.

"Holland is the son of Holland the architect who died a few months ago." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 27. Arlington Street.—"Among the matters which I had to mention yesterday but had not time for, was the question relative to some of the Cape appointments. You were to send me a statement upon the subject. I can only say in the mean time that no one can be less disposed than I have always been to encroach upon others' rights, or to contend for points of this sort where the merits have seemed to be against me. My vice, I fear, has been the other way, and it is this very consideration perhaps that will oblige me to be more tenacious on any point, where the merits seem to be in my favour.

"The auditorship, by all I can learn as well as by all I can judge, seems clearly to be of that sort. It is not merely that it has been hitherto in the Colonial Department, which in cases confined to Lord Melville's time I admit to be inconclusive, though a presumption certainly in the first instance; but that the reason of the thing on the grounds which I formerly stated

seems clearly to be that way.

"I am the more inclined to rely on my judgment on this point, or rather to feel it less shaken on finding yours against me, when I collect from your note, if I am right in my inference, that you retain the same opinion you did on the subject of the agencies. The agencies have been admitted as belonging to the Colonial Department (that is to say to the government upon the spot in colonies paying their own establishments) not in one instance only and under one Government, but in all instances and under all the successive governments that have taken place since the question can be considered as having arisen. It seems to me impossible almost to conceive a point of this sort more clearly established; yet, of course, you thought otherwise, at the moment at least when you named to me one that had fallen vacant.

"The auditorship, as far as depends on the reason of the thing, though not in respect of precedent, there having been only one appointment I believe, appears to me more clear, if

possible, than the other.

"The agent of a Colony has business often to transact with the Treasury, though that circumstance alone certainly does convey to the Treasury a right to his nomination. The auditor of the Cape has none. He is a mere officer between the Governor and the departments under him, and transacts business which must otherwise be transacted by the Secretary, or some other officer, who would not thereby become the nomination of the Treasury. One proof might be that the Treasury, by the course of their business, would not know of the existence of such an officer, or knowing that there was such a one, would not be able to say who he was. I am sincere in saying that, excepting the name, I cannot conceive what it is that has suggested to the Treasury the right of a nomination to this office.

"Till all is heard it is impossible to say what shall be one's final judgment in any case; and I need not repeat that nothing but a clear and decided judgment would make me hold out on a case of this sort, or even contend for it originally."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, September 27. Downing Street.—"The enclosed statement, which I consider to be quite conclusive on the subject, has lain by me some time, because I really hate such discussions, and am at all times unwilling to renew them. I must however fairly say that I am so perfectly satisfied on the point that I must proceed to make these appointments in the form pointed out in the enclosed paper, and which I am certain is the only regular form in which they can be made.

"Very far from agreeing to the claim about the agencies, I consider that as standing on the same ground as all the

others." Copy.

Enclosure.

"CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

Auditor.—All auditors of the plantations are appointed by patent:—the warrant is countersigned by the Board of Treasury.

Receiver General.—All receivers of the King's revenues are appointed by the King, the warrants countersigned

by the Treasury.

Officers of the Customs.—All officers of the customs are nominated by the Treasury, and appointed by the Commissioners of Customs; but when they are not under the Commissioners of Customs—as in the case of the Isle of Man—then the Treasury issue commissions under their hands.

King's Agent.—All king's agents are appointed by the king:—the warrants countersigned by the

Treasury."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 27. Arlington Street.—"I did not get your note till after my return to the Office, and was unluckily prevented from calling till you had set off for Dropmore.

"I can readily submit to reason, but it must be to reason urged in a way more satisfactory than in the paper which you have sent me, which contains assertion only where what was required was explanation, and in the only part to which I can speak with confidence, asserts what is perfectly incorrect. The paper sets out with saying that all auditors of the plantations are appointed by the King's patent. One auditor was certainly not so, namely the auditor of the Cape, and the question is whether, upon a comparison of his office

with others bearing the same name, but whose functions and character may be wholly different, such appointment was or was not irregular. But the paper goes on to say that all King's agents are appointed by the King. To which the answer is that, of the five agencies here in question, not one has been so appointed, though the appointments have been made out at different times and under different administrations, and some of them twice over.

"Upon the subject of the auditorship, on which I asked only for information, but certainly cannot consider myself as having received it, if the merits are against me, I shall acquiesce without a struggle, as originally, under that persuasion, I should never have moved the question. But upon the subject of the agencies, the case is so strong in precedent if not in reason, though I think in both, that it is fair to say that, in the event of any future vacancy, I will sooner quit my situation than allow of any appointment being made otherwise than in the way heretofore practised.

"To pass to another subject, I confess I feel rather uncomfortable at being compelled to forfeit the pledge which I certainly gave to the House respecting the discharge of men now serving at the end of their one and twenty years. Any member might be well warranted in saying that he supported the measure, or forbore to oppose it, in confidence of that

assurance.

"It is very unlucky that I am obliged to go at this moment; but every thing with respect to the expeditions, as well as with respect to the recruiting, is left, I hope, in regular train, and will not be impeded by my absence."

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 28. Stowe.—" I am most happy that you are contented, and the quiet reflection which I have given to the subject, satisfies me that upon the whole, what is done is the best. I was charged with two points, both of which were so unimportant, that I could not trouble you with them, while I was in town. The first is to take up George Nugent in your first list of baronets, as offered by the Duke of York and Lord Camden—that he may appear as approved by the King, instead of the story of disapprobation which has not been discountenanced by Coote in Jamaica; and the second is, that you will believe Monsieur who assures you, through me, that in case a proper moment should present itself for continental objects upon the largest scale, there exist in Britanny the means of employing a much larger French force than that which decided the fate of the empire at Australitz. It appears that the whole coast was destitute of troops at that time, and that a great opportunity was lost that could [have] gone great lengths, if an insurrection had been supported by 5,000 Swedes, and a French Prince.

"I am well aware, that the question is one that involves many collateral considerations, but it ought not to be lightly put by; and I think his speculations are—as far as I can judge from the correspondence he shows me—not unfounded. Of course they can only apply to the contingency of a continental war, and I very much fear that it is hardly possible to wish for it, unless we were much more sure of Prussia than we can be, with such a King, and such a Minister.

"I think that George Nugent will be satisfied with his baronetage, but I see he is teased by his wife, who is very

good, but not very wise."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, September 28. Thetford.—"My letter yesterday before I left town was written in such haste, and at a moment otherwise of so much confusion, that I hardly know what it contained; and much doubt whether it expressed correctly and adequately the sentiments which I wished it to convey.

"The whole question originates, you will recollect, in a change proposed on your part of removing to the Treasury certain appointments which have heretofore, some in more instances and some in fewer, been filled up by the Colonial Department. This change may be right or wrong; but the right or wrong must be a subject of enquiry and not be settled at once by one of the parties; and still less upon a principle that because disputes between friends are disagreeable things, as they certainly are, and not less so by being upon the subject of patronage, that the way to avoid the evil is for one party always to cede whatever the other may, upon any hasty view of the subject, be led to think that he has a right to claim.

"In a former instance the point was settled by your naming to the office at a time when, as I certainly thought, the propriety of the decision was still pending. On the present occasion, of four offices claimed by the Treasury, one only, the auditorship, is a subject of dispute; and I have submitted to you at some length the reasons why I conceive it should be filled up, as it was in the only former instance, by the Colonial Department. The answer to this is a paper, furnished naturally by some one in the Treasury, which, if true throughout, would be fallacious in the impression to be conveyed, and inconclusive as to the point in question; but which is, as you must perceive if you would advert to it, in many of its principal statements, perfectly false and incorrect. All Auditors of the Plantations, it is said, are appointed by warrant from the King, countersigned by the Treasury. But is the auditor of the Cape, though the same in name, the same in nature, functions, and character with the auditors appointed? And if he should turn out to be wholly different, does it follow of course that he must be appointed by the same rule? An Agent for Jamaica is equally a colonial agent with an Agent for any other colony, but in many of

these latter cases he is appointed by the Treasury, while in the other he is appointed by the Governor and Assembly of Jamaica.

All King's Agents, it is said, are appointed by warrant from

the King, countersigned by the Treasury.

"But are the five agents, about whom the question has arisen, King's Agents? If they are not, the statement is fallacious: if they are, the statement is untrue; for I must be more grossly deceived in my information than any man ever was, if every one of these five agents, though named under different administrations, ever received his appointment from the King, by a warrant countersigned by the Treasury. One I certainly know did not, for it was the one whom you named in the instance above adverted to, contrary, as I think, to the claims of the Colonial Department, supposing it to be considered as a matter of right in the Treasury, and whose letter recommending him to the Governor of the Cape I myself signed; a pretty certain proof, as it appeared to me, that the nomination was where I contended it to be.

"Upon this paper, however, thus loose, thus inconclusive, thus incorrect, and without noticing the statement which I had made, and which upon the face of it at least might seem entitled to consideration, you declare yourself so perfectly satisfied, that you shall proceed without further enquiry to fill up the several appointments now vacant, extending the same intention to the agencies, as I understand, whenever there shall be any to be filled up. I can hardly think that you will, upon reflection, consider this as a declaration fit to have been made in the present circumstances. It is in fact, what I am sure you did not intend to be, a proceeding perfectly contumelious; so much so indeed as to make it utterly impossible to be acquiesced in. I must fairly say that if this point is to be carried in this way, I cannot remain a part of your Government.

"What the result may be of further enquiry into the merits of the case, and the conduct to be held thereupon, can be determined only when that enquiry shall have been made, and when I shall know what there is to invalidate the arguments which, certainly at present, appear to me to be nearly conclusive. It is not in this case the value of the object, but the mode of taking it that makes the question what it is. In respect to patronage in general, if much must be given to the common stock, some must also remain for the use of the person at the head of the department. I am sure you cannot accuse me of being wanting in a disposition to contribute to the general purposes of government. What is the Cape itself? and that not less considerable object that we talked of yesterday? Not to mention smaller matters which, because they are smaller, remain more naturally, like those now in question, with the person in whose hands they are immediately placed. But there is a wide difference between

a voluntary grant of the particular turn, and a forced surrender of the right, as well for oneself, as for all who are to succeed onc. Against this last, as against everything forced, I must distinctly protest. What part I may be compelled to take upon a further discussion of the particular claim, supposing that you should be disposed to go into it, except in respect to the agencies, I cannot pretend to say. My own extreme unwillingness to take any such step as is above alluded to, will dispose me certainly to strain my conviction as far as possible; but there may be a point beyond which it cannot go, and which will leave me no option, however painful the necessity, as well on private as on public considerations."

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

A. Barnard's letter. You have known me long enough to allow me to say that I love a good-natured thing because it is such; but I must not give way to that feeling when my conscience tells me the thing is wrong; and wrong it certainly would be to give Mr. Barnard a pension on the Cape revenues as a reward for his former scrvices, for a few years in the last war, in an office which he is still perfectly capable of discharging, and to which an offer is made of reappointing him. To any exchange of that office for one here in my disposal I would most readily agree; but that, it seems, meets with other difficulties, which, of course, it is not for me to estimate. All I can say is that whatever it is fit and practicable for me to do, I shall feel a pleasure in doing, and more than that I ought not to undertake for." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, September 29. Downing Street.—"A messenger arrived from Lord Lauderdale last night. His dispatches are of great importance, and as the answer to them must in all probability put an immediate end to the negotiation, if it is not over already, I am under the necessity of requesting you to come to town.

"I had understood that you were to return to-day, and upon receiving the despatches ordered the Cabinet to be summoned at two. I shall now desire it to meet again at nine at your house, by which time I hope that you will be in

"Lauderdale had received a notification from Talleyrand that Clarke, being required to attend the Emperor, the negotiation would thenceforth be conducted by Champagny alone. In their first conference Champagny said he had no instructions to treat for Russia; this was, however, stated to be an omission which would be remedied, and it was accordingly done. When they next met, in treating upon this

point Champagny stated that he had no authority to eonsent to the cession of Dalmatia, and that in his opinion France could never be brought to consent to it. Lauderdale replied that no hope could in that ease be entertained of the success of the negotiation, and demanded his passports. These have been delayed by Talleyrand's having left Paris with the Emperor to go to Frankfort. Lauderdale's application being answered by a note from Hauterive, stating that Talleyrand had actually set out (though Basilico reports that the note was delivered to him sixteen minutes before he got into his carriage) that it should be sent after him, and would reach him either on the road, or, at all events, on his arrival at Mayence.

"Champagny had expressed a desire for another conference, to which Lauderdale's answer was, though he saw no use in it, he should have no objection to converse with him at any time so long as he remained in Paris, and they were to meet

again to-day.

"It is not, however, on the point of Dalmatia alone that an obstacle to negotiation has arisen; they have again reverted to the old proposition of exchanging Sieily for the Balearic Islands, and in the places which they express themselves disposed to leave in our possession, they omit St. Lueia. As an inducement to immediate peace, they profess a willingness

to accommodate matters with Prussia.

"I think Lauderdale will probably have insisted on his passports if the important points at least are not immediately eoneeded; but I have no doubt that our instructions to him ought to be, if Sicily and Dalmatia are not put out of dispute without further delay, immediately to come home. If these points are unequivocally abandoned by France, exchanges may be proposed; but these should be put in the form of an ultimatum; and the answer required, for which he may be allowed to wait, must be an absolute assent, or a refusal.

"Reports prevailed in Paris of further disasters having been suffered by the French in Calabria, that Massena was wounded, and believed to be dead; that Verdier also was wounded, and that Joseph Bonaparte did not think it safe to remain in Naples. The eruelties committed on both sides are

represented as shocking."

Secret. LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, September 29. Dropmore.—"I have been thinking much, as was natural, on the great question of the conditions to be now required for the restoration of peace. I am afraid we cannot well justify to ourselves the refusing to eede Buenos Ayres in any ease, but I cannot help reverting strongly to the idea that, considering the immense value of such a cession, we are well entitled to ask for it not only the condition of a free trade there on the present reduced duties, but also the restoration of Naples. If our possession of Buenos Ayres

is in any degree incomplete, that of Joseph Bonaparte in Naples cannot be said to be very secure; and I know not how to justify our giving up the one without obtaining the other.

'The argument with which we satisfied ourselves before on this subject of Naples was, that we had nothing to give which France would take in exchange for Naples. But this now is certainly not the case. It is impossible not to believe that rather than see all Spanish America fall into our hands, as it must now do in twelve months more of war, France would willingly give up Naples.

"We should in this view make perhaps a less advantageous peace for ourselves (for I feel as strongly as anybody all the insecurity of Naples if restored to its present King) but in the eyes of Europe one certainly much more honourable, than if we sacrificed our ally for great advantages to ourselves.

"I should however ask—lst for ourselves, uti possidetis as before, with the exception of Hanover (which indeed is now no longer a concession from France) and of Buenos Ayres, which we would expressly relinquish in exchange for Naples; reserving only the condition of free trade, open to all the nations of Europe.

"2nd. For Russia, as the price of her peace, acquiescence in the other changes in Europe, Dalmatia; to be given to Russia, to Austria, to Sardinia, or, lastly, to be made an independent state under the guaranty of the

great powers.

"3rdly. For Sardinia, the Balearic Isles, as proposed in

"I do not say absolutely that I would not relax from any part of these conditions; but I certainly would instruct Lauderdale to propose them, and to insist upon them till he finds it quite impossible to obtain them. Nor would I, as yet, give him authority to recede from them, but only to agree in the last extremity to refer home any modification of them

that France may propose.

"Perhaps if we were clearly driven to it by the impossibility of obtaining peace otherwise, I might renounce the demand of the Balearic Isles, and to let Dalmatia stand as the King of Sardinia's compensation. I know that in this way our interests are in a very considerable degree sacrificed to those of the King of Naples, and that we give up possessions in America, and demands in the Mediterranean, which if once ours we could hold for ever, in exchange for what never can be defended for a week against France. But such is the necessary condition of a great power, having weak allies, and not thinking it compatible with her honour, or even with her interests, well understood, to abandon them."

Postscript.—"I feel little doubt that in this last form peace could be made; for however advantageous it would be to us, see on the other head what immense power it leaves to France, and what opportunities of confirming and consolidating it,

Holland, all Italy but Naples, and one half of Germany, Swisserland with the Tyrol, and an uncontrolled dominion over Spain and Portugal, every part of which is put to hazard by the continuance of the war; while we, by the possession of South America, cut off her best resources for carrying it on."

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, September 30. Dublin Castle.—"I hasten to assure you that the new arrangements arising out of the severe loss we have sustained have my most cordial approbation, and I perceive with real satisfaction that they have been formed in the same spirit which dictated the union between your

lordship and Mr. Fox.

"By a letter I have from Elliot of the same date as yours (the 26th instant) and written after the Chancellor had been with him, subsequent to his interview with your lordship, some misunderstanding appears still to subsist; the Chancellor not understanding that the division of the Derry collectorship was finally determined upon. I have therefore written to Elliot to say that I shall taken no further step in this business, till I am informed that the Chancellor distinctly understands your wishes."

LORD HENRY PETTY to THE SAME.

1806, October 1.—" I send you a volume of papers relating to the Civil List, which I found with some others belonging to my father. I have put a mark to those which appeared to me at all material. The instructions at the end of the volume were, I presume, adopted, and either have or ought to be complied with.

"I understand from Vansittart that you propose having a Board on Friday to go through the minutes, when I shall not

fail to attend.

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the EARL OF LAUDERDALE.

1806, October 1. Downing Street.—"With the difficulties we were under when we wrote to you before, you will not wonder that there should have been, as I really think there was, some want of clearness on the subject of our late South American acquisitions. We have, I think, a full right to have it reckoned in the arrangement of a peace on the ground of *ũti possidetis*. But I am not sanguine enough to expect to retain it, without other sacrifices which we should not be willing to make. That was what I meant by its being made useful to the acquisition of peace. The whole matter is, I trust, by the present instructions put on a clear and satisfactory footing. If we make peace on the terms now proposed we shall undoubtedly have full reason to be satisfied. If they oblige us to follow up our blow in America, the Spanish empire there will be placed beyond the reach of being restored by any treaty that we could

make, were we ever so much disposed to it. This consideration, and the evident and increasing difficulties of France, make me more disposed than perhaps is reasonable, to hope for a favourable answer. But every step of this negotiation shews that nothing is to be gained from Bonaparte by any other means than the threat of breaking the negotiation off. And there are many considerations that make it desirable to bring the thing to a point speedily.

"One of these is, in my mind, the great want we have of you here, if we should resolve, as I may in confidence tell you is not unlikely, to dissolve the Parliament before Christmas.

"I have been taught by a long and bitter experience to put no trust in Prussia so long as the Court continues to be composed as it now is, and its present ministers retain their influence.

"But if they actually are engaged in hostilities against a common enemy, one may assist those whom one can neither esteem nor trust. Still it will require strong proof to convince me that Prussia really is disposed to bring things to this extremity." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 2. Admiralty.—"It is some time since I sent an assurance to Mr. Coutts the secret service money of the Foreign Office should be kept in his house."

Enclosure.

THOMAS COUTTS to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, September 18. Strand.—"You will recollect the unhandsome and unjust manner in which the official money of the Foreign Sccretary and the War Department were ordered to be removed from my house on account of Sir Francis Burdett's election, and the uncasiness it gave me at the time. I was gratified by its being returned to me by poor Mr. Fox, and I have been told Mr. Windham also means his should be returned. I should wish it might be continued by whoever is destined to the office, and I take the liberty of mentioning it to your lordship as your recommendation will no doubt be attended to and will do me much honour."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 2. Norton.—"We have had a fine spell of weather for our tour, and though it is impossible to admire the *environs* either of this place or of Gogmagog, the houses

are very good and their inhabitants very happy.

"I shall resume my duties in Westminster on Monday the 13th, or Wednesday the 15th at the latest. In the meantime, I hope that you will have received from the several offices of expenditure an estimate of their monthly demands to February inclusive, to be compared with the ways and means. You

will probably find that if it should be thought right for Parliament to meet before the birthday, it will at least not be

necessary on account of money.

"Would it not also be useful to have a detailed statement of all the heads or articles of revenue which produce respectively 5,000l. per annum and upwards: exhibiting the periods when each such article was first taxed; the additional imposts thereon; and the comparative net produce in different years. We could then ascertain what articles would bear a general addition of a twentieth or tenth.

"Some of the Hamburgh merchants have intimated to me that, considering their attendances and eventual interests, I ought to have written to them on the withdrawing of our embargo. But, in truth, though that measure took place before I left London, it was never mentioned to me in the bustle of the late arrangements, and I knew nothing of it till it appeared in the Gazette.

"I saw all the humours and heroes of Newmarket on Monday last, when I learned from the best authorities that the Prince of Wales is apprehended to be in a precarious state of health, with a loss of spirits and of appetite. He is to be

at Stamford to-morrow in his way to town."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 2.—"I learn by a note, which has crossed me to-day from Sir G. Shee, that you have conceived the idea of sending Craufurd round at once, without touching at the Plate.

"I can understand the motive in which this change is founded; but there is an objection not likely to have occurred to any one who had not followed the details of the business, and which seems to have been overlooked by Sir G. Shee likewise; namely, that in the arrangement of the transports it was not possible, without a risk of delay, to give to Craufurd in each instance the sort of vessel that was required for the prosecution of his further voyage. Nor was this of importance according to the arrangement before proposed, because there was with Achmuty wherewithal to supply him, and the exchange could easily be made when they arrived at their common destination.

"But I am at a loss to know what can now be done, at least without more delay than the first part of Craufurd's service may admit of; or than it might be prudent to risk if Sir Samuel Hood and every thing on that side is ready; for the sending Craufurd in proper ships is a point absolutely indispensable. The delay in the end (by the want, I mean, of ships of the proper description) might not only be a delay of weeks, but there might be a total failure of the object. You must balance therefore between the delay of changing the vessels here (that is to say, by changing between him and

Achmuty if Achmuty is not already gone, or by procuring other vessels if such are to be had) and the risk of notice being

conveyed of his design.

"I enter in part into this latter apprehension, if such in fact is the consideration, and had felt it in some degree myself, but had dismissed it afterwards from my mind, finding that the other idea prevailed; and considering, from the immense width of the river, how little of what was done in one part might be known in another.

"The question is, however, as I have just observed, between that danger and the danger of delay, whether as respecting the ultimate object of Craufurd's expedition or the more

immediate.

"I send this forward for greater precaution, though Craufurd will hardly fail to have pointed out the difficulty here stated should he be still in London, and though I myself shall follow in the course of not many hours, being on my way to town.

"I know nothing of what is going on, having received hardly anything but the note above-mentioned from Sir G. Shee, and the intelligence, which I got at Yarmouth, that Lord Morpeth was going to Berlin."

Postscript.—" The vessels, I should have explained, that are

wanted for Craufurd must be sharp coppered vessels."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, October 3. Admiralty.—"Will you have the goodness to cast your eye over the accompanying instructions to Drummond, which, together with the draft of the treaty, I

suppose should be submitted to the Cabinet to-day.

"I forgot to tell you this morning that Francis wishes to go to Buenos Ayres. I don't know whether you mean to send a governor there, but if you do, there are many reasons which would render this a desirable appointment. There may however be some to be stated on the other side.

"Thornton's despatches were sent to Lord Spencer without going to the Foreign Office; he sent them to me here, and I did not get them till late last night. The letter to you was

enclosed by Thornton, and came with them."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, October 3. Admiralty.—"I return you Jacobi's letter, which I have indeed had some trouble in reading. All these assurances of a fixed determination, and exhortations to us to be satisfied are very fine; but why are we to be satisfied with assurances when there can be inconvenience in giving proofs; or why is Prussia to expect that general declarations will be accepted, when no possible reason can be assigned, if she is sincere, why she should not do us complete justice. The demand of pecuniary assistance in the manner in which it is proposed, certainly ought not to pass without remark.

"If Prussia really goes to war, subsidies no doubt will be wanted. Your decision of the question respecting Parliament must depend, therefore, on your opinion of this probability.

"I will add your alterations to Drummond's instructions, and a clause respecting Majorca, if ceded to the King of Sicily

at a peace.

"The *President*, a 44 gun frigate, one of those which was with the *Regulus* on the coast of Africa, is taken by Louis's squadron. He was bound to L'Orient, and says that the *Regulus* and the other frigate, from which he separated in a gale of wind, were making for the same port; so that we have a good chance of getting them all."

Private. LORD ELLENBOROUGH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 3. Tunbridge Wells.—" I have long had it in contemplation to make the request to your lordship with which I at present trouble you, and in the success of which I cannot help feeling the deepest and most anxious interest.

"I have a brother, the Rev. Dr. George Law, who is, I believe, one of the most respected members of the church belonging to the University of Cambridge. He distinguished himself in an early part of his life whilst resident there, by obtaining several academical prizes and honours for classical learning. He has since resided with his family, now consisting of ten children, on his ecclesiastical preferment in the neighbourhood of that university. His conduct in that situation has been highly meritorious and exemplary, and his character is in all respects without a blemish. He has two livings, one of them a very good one near Cambridge, given him by the Bishop of Ely; he has besides a prebend in the church of Carlisle, and another in that of York. The prebend of Carlisle is worth upwards of 400l. per annum. There is, I believe, no clergyman connected with the University of Cambridge who is more generally regarded as a fit object of advancement in the church.

"Upon a supposition conceived some time ago that he was about to receive some such advancement in the church as might eventually vacate his prebend of Carlisle, Sir James Graham was an earnest advocate with Lord Sidmouth on the behalf of his brother, that he might succeed to that preferment.

"I take the liberty of assuring your lordship that you cannot in any way so essentially and effectually oblige me as by recommending my brother Dr. George Law for some ecclesiastical situation of eminence and advantage in the patronage

of his Majesty.

"As I have not now, and am not aware that I ever shall have any personal favour to ask on my own account, I cannot but allow myself to hope that the relation in which I have the honour to stand to the Government, and to your lordship in particular as its head, and the zeal with which I have on all occasions afforded my poor assistance to support its interests

and honour, may, in aid of the other considerations and circumstances I have mentioned, be deemed so far to sanction this request, as to have the effect of obtaining for me the favour which I so earnestly solicit at your lordship's hands."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, October 4. Downing Street.—"I have had a long conversation with Lord Douglas, and proposed that he should set out the week after next, which will give us time, in all probability, to form some satisfactory judgment as to the conduct of Prussia. He expresses himself ready to go, but the points which he is endeavouring to carry will probably have

considerable influence on his determination.

"He asks not only for Mr. Mills, as Secretary of Legation, but for an increase of the allowances which Lord G. Leveson had, so as to leave him a clear salary of 10,000l. after all deductions on account of income tax. I have sent him away with a stiff refusal upon both, though he pleads a positive promise with respect to them from poor Fox. The last he does not seem to insist upon, but left me saying that it would be necessary to have some further conversation respecting the appointment of Mr. Mills.

He represents the thing as being so completely settled, that Mills had refused one of the appointments in the West India Commission, had made all his arrangements at Wallingford, and actually sent a part of his baggage, with that of Lord Douglas, to Petersburgh.

"I return Gentz's letters. You said something of a proposal for the employment of Swedish troops on the coast of France. Would you have me say anything upon this point in my next despatch to Pierrepoint?

I am going out of town, and do not mean to return, if

I can help it, till Monday."

Private. The Earl of Lauderdale to The Same.

1806, October 4. Paris.—"Lord Howick will shew you my private letters, and these together with the public despatch really contain everything I have to say.

"You may be assured that everything I can do to get away as soon as possible shall be tried, but it is impossible to parry

all the devices that they may fall upon to keep me.

"I cannot conceive, however, that they can avoid giving me passports by the end of next week. At present nobody here has power to grant other passports than those for the couriers."

LORD HOLLAND to THE SAME.

1806, October.—" After the obliging manner in which you received my mention of Mr. Neve and your account of your promises of church preferment, I hope you do me the justice to believe that nothing would induce me to trouble you so soon

another application connected with ecclesiastical patronage if it arose solely or even chicfly from personal friendship, and interest for the individual. But as it is possible from the very circumstance of no vacancies having occurred in the church since last January that my uncle may never have spoken to you of the situation in which he and his political friends stood with respect to Dr. Parr, and consequently that his name may not be included in the list of applications to which you alluded, in justice to him and many common friends I think I am bound to state to you, at a time when ecclesiastical arrangements are making, and there is a prospect of yet more to be made, that it was the sincere desire of my uncle, and would be I am sure a real gratification to many of his friends, to see Dr. Parr in some high situation in the church suitable to his great reputation for learning, and due from my uncle and his political supporters for his long and unalterable attachment to him and them.

"If I am officious in sending you this statement, it is from an apprehension that what many would be inclined to do they might neglect doing from trusting to the probability of its being done by others; and I am sure no promotion in the church would give more general satisfaction to some of the steadiest and most powerful supporters of government than

that of Dr. Parr."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, October 4. Downing Street.—"I have purposely delayed answering the two last letters which you wrote to me on the subject of the Cape appointments, because I was unwilling that any thing I wrote in answer to them should be either in fact, or in appearance, hasty.

"The only practical question now at issue relates to the nomination of an Auditor at the Cape. The Receivers and Collectors of the Revenue there you seem to feel must undoubtedly be named by that Department which has the general and universal superintendence and direction of the

public revenues.

"What particular instructions the Auditor of the Cape may have received for his conduct, or what the special matters committed to him may be, I cannot say. But if his duty be, as the name imports, to examine and audit the public accounts there, whether of receipt or expenditure, that is also an office which can, as I conceive, no otherwise be discharged but under the appointment, instruction, and control of the Treasury, whose special duty it is to take care that the public accounts are duly audited; and who will, as I apprehend, in this very case of the Cape, be compelled immediately to apply their attention to the establishment of a more efficient system in this respect. This reasoning it is which (connected with the fact of the mode in which the Auditor of the plantations is

actually named) induces me to believe that I cannot avoid making in the same form the nomination of the officer, whatever he may be called who is to discharge this duty. But when I say this, I certainly never mean to convey an idea that I precluded the consideration of such further suggestions as you might think material on the subject. If any of my expressions could give you the impression of any want of attention to yourself, your situation, or your wishes, I must distinctly assure you that I never had any such intention. In the situation in which I am placed I cannot discharge what is expected from me, if I do not maintain the rights of appointment incident to it. But nothing could be further from my wish than that yourself or any other of my colleagues should have cause to feel yourself hurt in the manner in which this

"I certainly cannot well conceive how the reasoning and principle above stated can be shaken; and, if it be correct, I ought not to delay acting upon it, because the appointment of some such officer seems indispensably connected with the regulations to be made for the business he is to do. If however any thing occurs to you further upon it, I shall of course be ready to consider it with those sentiments towards you which, I trust, are alone a sufficient security against the possibility of my doing any thing injurious or unbecoming." Copy.

The Earl of Lauderdale to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 6. Paris.—"I have nothing to add to what is contained in the public despatch, and my private letters to

Lord Howick which he will shew you.

"In my answer to M. Talleyrand's note, I am aware I have gone a little out of the usual course; but it was after mature deliberation that I adopted this method of replying, being convinced that the great attempt of the French Government, the moment I am gone, will be to attribute the negotiation having gone off to the death of Mr. Fox.

"I have acted to the best of the judgment, and I trust it will meet with the approbation of his Majesty's government."

W. ELLIOT to THE SAME.

1806, October 6. Spring Gardens.—"I enclose a note which I have just received from the Duke of Bedford, and the contents of which he desires me to communicate to you."

Enclosure.

The DUKE OF BEDFORD to W. ELLIOT.

1806, October 1. Dublin Castle.—"I have only time to say that your letter of the 27th instant (by Richard Ponsonby) did not reach me till this day. I immediately sent to Beresford, but he was gone to Derry. I shall write to him on the subject forthwith, although I should have preferred a verbal communication.

"As you have seen the Chancellor, and explained to him Lord Grenville's understanding of the arrangement, I run no risk of being accused of precipitancy on his part.

"Have the goodness to communicate the substance of this

to Lord Grenville."

H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 7. Carlton House.—"Will you have the goodness to mention any hour this day when you can call upon me, or when I may call upon you in Downing Street, as I am very desirous of seeing you on my return to town, and have many things I wish much to talk over with you. Pray only think of naming the time that is most convenient to yourself, and I will take care to be at home."

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, October 7. Carlton House.—"Since my arrival in town for the purpose of giving the last testimony in my power of that ardent regard and affection which through life I have borne to Mr. Fox, both as a public man, and as a private friend, a doubt has been intimated to me that my attendance at the funeral might not appear to his Majesty in the same unexceptionable light in point of propriety, with reference to my station in the country, as it certainly did to me, when in the moment of affliction and regret I adopted the idea. adopted it also in consequence of the most affecting applications from his family, to whom, conceiving no impediment at the time, I gave my promise to attend. However gratifying the performance of the melancholy duty I had prescribed to myself, would be to my feelings, I am sensible that I ought not to give way to them, if in his Majesty's contemplation, there exists a real objection to my doing so. I am anxious only for more certainty of his Majesty's wishes, or opinion on this subject, to which, as on every other occasion where · I am honoured with a clear opportunity of knowing his pleasure, it will be my duty to conform. I confess that in the present instance I may have been led to imagine that any attention on the part of the King's family to the remains of his departed Minister and servant might have proved the more acceptable by the reflection that the object of that Minister's unceasing and most anxious interest to his dying hour, was the recovery of the hereditary dominions of my father and sovereign, unfortunately left an unprotected prey to foreign ambition and perfidy. This consideration is very near to my heart, and embraces the high respect I have for the political virtues of my lamented friend. Perhaps it may not be improper here to mention that at the funeral of Sir William

Fawcett, I, and all my brothers (the Duke of Sussex excepted, who was then not in England) attended, and the Duke of York and myself walking as chief mourners. I am not aware that our conduct on that occasion was considered as objectionable. Sure I am that the motives on my part were to show respect to an officer, so long, and so highly esteemed by the King, but for whom, though my regard and friendship for him were most sincere, I can not be supposed to have felt in any respect the same degree of affection and attachment which so long filled my mind for Mr. Fox. After that public tribute on my part to the memory of Sir William Fawcett, my absence from the funeral of Mr. Fox would be more difficultly referred to etiquette, and might be open to invidious comments. however, no wishes of mine in this melancholy circumstance shall for a moment stand in the way of his Majesty's better judgment, if on submitting the little I have said to his consideration, the matter appears in the same light as I understand his Majesty at first to have viewed it in. Other opportunities will be afforded to me of showing the sentiments I have felt for my friend while living, and my unalterable reverence for his memory after death. I have only to add that I do not intrude upon you on the present occasion, any expressions of the sincere regard, confidence, and friendship I feel for you, as this is to be considered more as a communication to the Minister than as a letter to Lord Grenville."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, October 8. Admiralty.—" I enclose for your information two papers which I have just received from Count Munster, and which appear to me of considerable importance. Be so good as to send them back to me after you have read them.

"Was General Fox's appointment as Minister Plenipotentiary intended only to be temporary? If not what reason are we to give for recalling it, and how is the loss he will sustain in a pecuniary view by quitting his government at Gibraltar to be made up to him? I put these questions in consequence of some conversation I had yesterday with Lord Holland, who states that his uncle's appointments, by removing him from Gibraltar, even with that of Minister Plenipotentiary, are reduced from 12,000l. to 6,000l; and in looking over the papers in the Office I find that the reason given for his appointment as Minister is that it is necessary to unite in him the two characters of Minister and Commander of the Forces, in order to prevent jealousies. I should not have been so late in stating these circumstances if I had known them sooner; or if I had not concluded that General Fox's appointment as Minister was only intended to continue till another could be sent.

"Will you forgive my troubling you with the enclosed letter from my old tutor. Do not imagine that I mean to press upon you at the present moment; but I should do injustice

both to my own feelings and his work, if I did not communicate his application; and at the same time state that he is a person whom I am most anxious to serve. My first interest, however, must be used for my brother, and if in the inferior arrangements consequent upon the death of the Bishop of St. Asaph, any thing can be found for him, I shall be much obliged to you."

Private. MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 9. Camelford House.—"Relying with the greatest confidence upon your kind disposition towards me, I did not yesterday mention my brother Gerald's name to you, as I had apprized you sometime ago of the state of his situation in the Church. It would be a great object to him if, in the course of the arrangements now depending, he could obtain a canonry of St. Paul's, upon resigning his prebendary of Westminster.

"Pray remember this circumstance, if an opportunity should occur."

LORD ELLENBOROUGH to THE SAME.

1806, October 11. Bloomsbury Square.—"I hope your lordship will have the goodness to forgive me when I again repeat my very earnest request to your lordship that my brother Dr. Law may be allowed to succeed to the vacancy at St. Paul's about to be made by the promotion of Dr. Moss. No other preferment with a view to the education of his family in town, will be so acceptable to him; and I should hope that the relation in which I stand to government, and the other circumstances of my situation, might afford a reasonable ground for postponing the expectations of the Speaker's chaplain to the satisfaction of my very anxious wishes on behalf of my brother on this occasion. It is most likely that before Parliament meets a vacancy will occur in some other description of preferment more usually conferred on the Speaker's chaplain, for no instance occurs to me in which the Speaker's chaplain has been promoted to a resident prebend of St. Paul's."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, October 12. Norton.—"My holidays are on their death-bed. We expect to arrive in Palace Yard next Tuesday, and mean to dine and sleep at Mr. Wedderburne's, Upper Grosvenor Street. On that evening, or on the Wednesday morning, I shall be forthcoming if you have any commands. And a few hours will clear away the arrears and small details of the Land Tax Redemption, and of the Office for Trade. As to the American negotiation, I have with the assistance of our secretary, despatched to Lord Holland a summary (in thirty folio pages) of all the points in discussion, and of their

bearings and difficulties; and I have endeavoured to make it easy to the Secretary of State to give the requisite instructions for our proceeding. If may be practicable to conclude in the course of a few weeks, if you wish it, a treaty not liable to essential objections, and calculated to suspend, at least, all appearance of ill-humour between this country and the United States. It being now settled that Parliament shall sit before Christmas, would it not be right that the Treasury, the committee of Council for Trade, the Admiralty, and the Excise and Customs, should go doggedly to work, to bring forwards their several Bills at the opening of the session? If you should think so, I shall arrange to settle in town in the second or third week of November.

"I wish to have a very confidential ten minutes with you, on a consideration highly material towards securing in the House of Commons all the preconcert, efficiency, management, and co-operation, the want of which was so seriously felt in the late session."

LORD GRENVILLE to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, October 12. Downing Street.—"I have the honour of humbly acquainting your Royal Highness that his Majesty's Ministers have resolved to advise his Majesty to dissolve

Parliament towards the end of this month.

"The measure has not been yet communicated to our friends, and the notice to them will be shorter than we could have wished; but the protraction of the negotiation on one hand, and the necessity of an early meeting of the new Parliament on the other, have unavoidably pressed this resolution forward.

"I shall of course be anxious to receive any commands that your Royal Highness may honour me on this occasion."

Copy.

THE SAME to GEORGE III.

1806, October 12. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville begs leave humbly to submit to your Majesty that, in the opinion of your Majesty's confidential servants, it would be highly advantageous to the public interests that the present Parliament should be dissolved towards the end of this month. The reports of an impending dissolution have been so prevalent, and have obtained such universal credit, that the country is exposed to nearly all the inconveniences of a general canvas. To this consideration is added that of the present crisis of affairs, as resulting from the probable renewal of hostilities on the Continent, and from the rupture of the negotiations at Paris, a circumstance in which Lord Grenville thinks it of the utmost importance that the vigorous resolutions which he trusts will be adopted by Parliament at their meeting, should

have all that weight and sanction, both at home and abroad, which they will necessarily derive from a recent recurrence to

the general sense of your Majesty's people.

"Lord Grenville had proposed to submit these ideas for your Majesty's consideration as soon as it became certain that Lord Lauderdale would quit Paris; but he was deterred by an apprehension that there might be some difficulty in making the necessary arrangements for carrying on the public finance during the interval which will elapse before a new Parliament can be assembled. He has now the satisfaction of seeing that this obstacle can be surmounted without difficulty; and he has therefore no further hesitation in humbly recommending the immediate adoption of the measure now submitted to your Majesty.

"As the time is so short he has thought it best to trouble your Majesty on the subject in this form, being unwilling to intrude himself unnecessarily upon your Majesty at Windsor, unless your Majesty should see any reason to command his attendance for the purpose of any further explanation on the

subject." Copy.

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 12. Downing Street.—"I called here in order to mention to you that I have some papers from Canning, and also a paper of observations which I thought it necessary to address to him, relative to the communications which lately passed between us. As it is his wish to make a statement of the transaction to his friends, and as he is desirous that you should previously see that statement, I should be glad if you could fix some time within the next day or two when I might call upon you with the papers. They are so blotted and interlined in consequence of my remarks, that I fear you could not easily understand them without my assistance. I can however send them to you, if you choose that course. Canning is desirous that he should be enabled to make his statement (which is to be addressed to Lord Lowther) in the course of two or three days."

Private. H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES to THE SAME.

1806, October 13. Witham Common.—"The messenger has this moment caught me as I was stepping into my carriage to proceed on my journey, and I lose no time in despatching him back again. I certainly am of opinion that the determination you are come to of dissolving the Parliament is well-judged, and well-timed; but, at the same time, I think it an indispensible duty I owe to you to acquaint you with a most important circumstance that, of course will have weight with you, and with all those that are in office with you, and which came to my knowledge not twelve hours before I left London, and which I acquainted Lord Moira with immediately the

night previous to my departure, and which I then desired him on his return to take the carliest opportunity of acquainting you with; which is, and I have it from the very best and most undoubted authority (and which I am certain that you cannot fail to know from whence it comes, from V----) that the Opposition, but in particular Lord Eldon and the Duke of Cumberland, intend to make a stand, and a last effort with the King upon this measure, should it previously transpire so as to reach them before the measure is ordered by the King in Council, and issued to the public through the medium of the Gazette. This was told but a few days ago by the Duke of Cumberland to V---, who is quite in the dark as to what are V——s's bearings and feelings. It therefore, with submission to your better judgment, I should think would be absolutely not only desirable but necessary, that the very strictest secrecy should be observed as to the measure in meditation; but if possible that it should be proposed to the King only on the very day when it is to be sanctioned by him in the Council. Whether any attempts have as yet been already made by them to work upon the King, I cannot possibly say; but I rather should think not, as in the way I understood the circumstance when it was stated to me, it was, that the Duke of Cumberland spoke of it only as looking forward to it with confidence, and as a certain ground for shaking the Government, and of determining the King to resist the measure whenever the moment arrived. But Lord Moira can give you this more in detail from what I told him than I possibly can do by writing, and therefore the sooner you see him the better, as I dwelt a considerable time upon this with him. Excuse me for mentioning to you that I think you have in your own hands a method of entirely preventing the Duke of Cumberland from approaching the King at the present moment, and which will entirely put a stop to the possibility of that incessant communication which takes place between Lord Eldon and the King through the medium of the Duke of Cumberland whenever he forces his attendance upon the King; and that is, either through yourself or through Lord Moira conveying to the Duke of York in private how desirable it would be, and that I had strongly expressed myself to ministers upon that head before I set out on my journey, that the Duke of York should write a positive order to the Duke of Cumberland, unless sent for by him, not to leave his district under any pretence whatever, until the meeting of Parliament; as I strongly resented his unnecessary visits to London, which were only for the sake of mischief, and to intermeddle in the business of the Princess of Wales; and that as this was now approaching to a termination, the P[rince]ss's answers having been transmitted by the King to his Cabinet, it was highly indecorus that when it could be prevented, as it can be by the Duke of York, that the Duke of Cumberland should not be stopped by being ordered to remain at his post. This can

now be the more easily done, as I had a conversation with the Duke of York upon this head not above three days ago, who expressed himself most extremely displeased at the Duke of Cumberland's total neglect of his duties as a General of a District; and saying to me, that he had spoken very roughly to him upon it, as the Duke of Cumberland had availed himself of his absence again to run away from his District without either leave or permission from him. This perhaps, therefore, had better be done through Lord Moira than through any other quarter, unless you think that it might be better done by yourself, as possibly it may flatter the Duke of York more, to see that he is treated with confidence both by you and me; and that I had left it in your hands on my leaving London; and I am confident that when the Duke of York hears this from you, and knows that it is the wish and the desire of government in addition to mine, he will do what he is desired in the strongest manner possible. Throw the whole upon me, and this will blind them completely. My letter has extended itself to a greater length than I could have wished, but I found it impossible to reduce into a narrower compass what I had to say; and which, though I write in great haste in order not to detain the messenger, I hope is sufficiently clear to be understood. But interested as I feel myself in all that concerns the present Government, I could not leave you in ignorance of that which I deem of the greatest importance, as it so immediately relates to the measure now decided upon by the Cabinet."

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 13. Windsor Castle.—" Although the King must lament that a proposal should be made to him for the dissolution of this Parliament which has sat so short a time; if it is considered by Lord Grenville a measure of urgent necessity, his Majesty will not withhold his acquiescence. At the same time the King cannot abstain from expressing his surprise that, although the report of such an intention on the part of his Government had been so long prevalent, nothing should ever have been said to his Majesty on the subject, which could induce him to give the least credit to public rumour."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1816, October 13. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has been honoured with your Majesty's note of this morning; and at the same time that he begs leave to return your Majesty his grateful acknowledgments for your Majesty's acquiescence in the measure which he has had the honour to submit, he trusts your Majesty will allow him to take this first opportunity of justifying himself in your Majesty's eyes from the appearance of a conduct of which he feels himself totally incapable.

"He is indeed deeply concerned that your Majesty should think it possible that, intending to propose a dissolution of Parliament, he could at the same time deliberately conceal that intention from your Majesty. He begs in the most solumn manner to disclaim a purpose so entirely repugnant to his character. He trusts that his assertion does not need with your Majesty any other or additional support; but if it did, there is not any one of his colleagues to whom he could not

safely appeal for the truth of the following statement.

"When the reports of the dissolution were prevalent towards the close of the last session and after its conclusion, Lord Grenville's opinion was adverse to the measure. It continued to be so till the expected rupture of the negotiations at Paris, and the increasing ferment and canvass in the country induced him to alter it. He then summoned a Cabinet to discuss the question, with the intention, if their opinion concurred with his, of instantly submitting the measure to your Majesty, in the same manner as he has now done. On the very morning of that Cabinet, he received such a statement of finance as led him to judge the measure impracticable. The whole of these circumstances he stated to his colleagues as precluding all further discussion of the measure, and it was thereupon considered as finally abandoned. The meeting of Parliament was in consequence fixed for the 27th November.

"It was not until last Saturday (the day before yesterday) that, in consequence of an examination made with another view, it became obvious to Lord Grenville that, even after a dissolution, Parliament might still meet in time to provide for the exigencies of the public service. He thereupon directed a fresh Cabinet to be summoned on the subject. That Cabinet met yesterday, and it was the result of their deliberations that he had last night the honour to submit to your Majesty.

"He humbly intreats your Majesty's forgiveness for trespassing upon your Majesty's time and patience with so long a detail. But as this is the first time in so many years of service that your Majesty has ever appeared to him to have coneeived the least impression of any thing like concealment or disguise in his conduct, he feels an anxiety, such as he has hardly ever experienced, to discharge himself from such a suspicion.

"He may have been mistaken in his opinions. He may have erred in the choice of those measures which he has submitted for your Majesty's gracious consideration. But he humbly intreats your Majesty to be assured that it is no less his determined purpose, than he knows it to be his bounden duty, to state to your Majesty his sentiments and views at all times, and with the most unreserved sincerity and openness. He is most thoroughly convinced that he can in no other manner discharge the anxious duties of his station with that satisfaction to his own mind on which alone he can ground any hope of meriting your Majesty's gracious approbation and confidence." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD ELLENBOROUGH.

1806, October 13. Downing Street.—"I am not sufficiently forward in the arrangements consequent upon the Bishop of St. Asaph's death, to see my way as to the manner of satisfying on this occasion (the first of the sort that has arisen) a few of the innumerable claims and applications made to me for ecclesiastical preferment.

"I never meant that the Speaker's chaplain should have St. Paul's, but I shall probably feel myself obliged to open by the prebend there some one of smaller value for him.

"I hope I need not say that if I can assist Dr. Law on this or any future occasion, it will give me pleasure to do so; but you must make a reasonable allowance for my difficulties on a subject on which applications are pressed upon me from all quarters, in addition to those personal obligations under which I (like almost every other man in the country) stand to my own immediate friends and connexions." Copy.

GEORGE III to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 14. Windsor Castle.—" The King has received Lord Grenville's letter of yesterday, and desires he will be assured that the explanation which it contains has been perfectly satisfactory to his Majesty. The King is however convinced that Lord Grenville will admit that, without such an explanation, the circumstances apparently connected with the proposal for a dissolution of Parliament would strike him in an awkward light."

LORD GRENVILLE to H.R.H. the PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, October 14. Downing Street.—"I am infinitely indebted to your Royal Highness for your condescending letter which I have this morning received. His Majesty has signified to me his consent to the measure of the dissolution, and it can no longer be kept secret because of the great number of persons to whom it must necessarily be communicated, with a view to their making their different arrangements in consequence of it.

"I will not fail to converse with Lord Moira on the point which your Royal Highness had the goodness to throw out; but the time is so short as not to allow much room for such an intrigue. This is one advantage which results from a pressure in point of time, which, on many other occasions, is

attended with considerable inconvenience." Copy.

The Marquis of Buckingham to Lord Grenville.

[1806, October 14. Stowe.]—"I am indeed delighted that the point is settled, for I thought I saw the advantage of it so strongly, that I was tempted to have written to you to urge it, though I so much dislike giving unasked advice on matters not entirely within my information. I will write to Talbot, and

am ready to apply to Lord Kenmarc whenever you shall explain your wishes. As to Lord Delvin I have not heard a word from him since he first applied to me, but I have heard that he has mismanaged his game. Of the old members I should think that Foster will always have Rochford, and Smith may be gained if Eliott will apply to him. My own arrangements must depend a little upon yours, or rather upon Tom's final decision respecting Captain Fremantle; for, if he should decide not to bring him into the Admiralty before the election, I should not like to vacate Saltash for his reelection; and, in that case, I would propose that the two brothers should change, William Fremantle for Saltash, and Thomas Fremantle for St. Mawes. The rest of list would stand:

> Lord Temple. Buckinghamshire Buckingham T. Grenville. Neville. Do. .. George Nugent. Aylesbury Thomas Fremantle. Saltash St. Mawes William Fremantle. .. Sir W. Young.

"The last to be vacated; or if he should not be present for the day of your return, which I should suppose cannot be sooner than the Friday December 26th—for Christmas day is on the Thursday-I have another arrangement for that seat that your numbers may be as large as possible. But under all the discussions which may occur between us, I think it may be advisable for me to come to town on Saturday morning, so as to dine with Tom and you, if you can either of you give me a dinner; and I will stay Sunday with you. I therefore beg that you will let me know by the return of post whether you have engagements for those two days, that make it impossible for us to dine together on one at least of them; and if my son should arrive in town, you will detain him there that we may meet there.

"I have worked very laboriously for your attack and its collateral's, and I have endeavoured to put my ideas upon paper. If you should wish me to see Stevenson, I will appoint him to meet me in town. The first part of his Black project would be an attack on Senegal with 600 men on their way to the West Indies; and he would garrison Senegal, when taken, by the greater part of the garrison now at Goree. This project would not diminish your operative force, and his recruiting of Blacks would begin instantly upon that capture. We are in time for this expedition at the best season, so as to be in Senegal within forty days from its sailing; so that we might hope to begin our black levy by December 20, and the first levy might sail for the West Indies by the end of February, and would be there by the end of March. I have great confidence, from a very long acquaintance, in Stevenson's abilities and integrity.

"I received yesterday a letter from our good bishop stating that he has been tempted by the 6,000*l. per annum* of St. Asaph to apply to you for it. You will, I know, do all you can to gratify him; but it is so much a better thing than the auditorship, that I am bound in conscience to recommend you to take it yourself."

Private. MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 14. Oxford Street.—"As it appears to be doubtful when we may meet, I send you the papers respecting my communication with Canning, although I fear you may not clearly understand them without my explanation. I have been very ill with a severe cold since I saw you, and almost confined to my room for these three days; not having been out of the house, but for the purpose of calling upon you to-day.

"Unless you should return the papers sooner, I will call in Downing Street at eleven to-morrow. It is desirable to give

an answer to Canning soon."

MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to THE SAME.

1806, October 15. Stowe.—"In the first place nothing, be assured, can gratify me more than to meet your views, but it does so happen that I have and do still very much dislike the idea of my brother's starting for Oxford, which is a very different proposition now from what it was three years ago; and therefore, not as an attention to your wishes but as a request in which you can gratify me, let me beg you to sell this favour to Abbott or where you will, and let me put Tom to bed to his old wife Buckingham, instead of alma mater.

"He has written to me the kindest letter informing me that he is well satisfied with Markham, and keeps him, and means to send Pole to be second in the channel fleet, and to put Fremantle in his place, and to make no other change unless to vacate Sir P. Stephens for Dickenson. This is in all its points most gratifying to me, and I am persuaded most eligible on every account. But, although this removes part of my difficulties, still I shall come to town, if you can let me dine with you either Saturday or Sunday, that I may know whether his commission for his Board can be signed before the 30th; for, if not, Fremantle and Dickenson must be re-elected; and although there will be no doubt of the election of Tucker and Fremantle at Saltash, yet I should not like to vacate it again. I must therefore settle it when we meet, according to Tom's convenience; but it is not the same thing to me, either in expense or in other points, whether the brothers remain as I had first settled, or change places.

"I now enclose to you my very vague and unfinished ideas respecting your South American projects. They are, as you will see, very general, because I can have no documents on

the state of the interior. But I will fairly own that I am most sanguine in my plan for attacking Panama, from the certain capture which it promises of Chagres, giving us thereby possession of the communication for hostile or commercial operations to an extent and to consequences quite incalculable. And I am equally intent on sending some of Vancouver's officers, of whom I have named four very good men now in frigates at home, who are the properest for conducting an enterprise of two frigates, a sloop, and a brig, with 250 troops from the Cape of Good Hope and New South Wales. I do not expect solid operations from this Peruvian squadron, but they will distract the money and the means of Spain, as they ean be on the coast of Pcru in less than five months from this day.

day.

"You will have made Bishop Cleaver very happy, for he began to grow uneasy at seeing no prospect of providing for his English sons out of his Welsh Bangor, without some of Archbishop Moore's simoniacal devices. But at St. Asaph there is no such difficulty. I wrote to Fremantle to say that Lady Downshire is ready to pay 4,000l. instanter for one of his easy chairs. It is meant to accommodate Corry in case it

should be wanted, and, if not, if will be for a triend,"

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM.

1806, October 16. London.—"I lament that you come to town so late as Saturday, because there is much to be settled about Saltash, where it does not seem desirable that Tucker should himself come in. This can only be settled with you. Could you not contrive to be in town to-morrow night; or at all events early enough on Saturday to see Tom, and to write by the post; otherwise we shall lose two days." Copy.

THE SAME to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, October 16. Downing Street.—"I return you the papers you sent me. They afford ample proofs of the fairness of the intention with which Canning's letter has been drawn, and it is impossible for me not to feel highly gratified by his expressions of personal kindness towards myself, which indeed I never doubted, and which is met on my part by feelings perfectly reciprocal. I also concur entirely with him in the propriety, for his sake as well as for my own, of our being enabled to make to our respective friends some statement on this subject.

"I have indeed already had occasion to say something on the subject to the very person to whom Canning's letter is

addressed.

"In answer to some observations of his, I felt myself at liberty to say, that I had had the means of ascertaining that the persons with whom he wished to see me connected had determined not to treat for that purpose but as a body, and to

maintain pretensions which (whether reasonable or not in themselves) were inconsistent with what I felt I owed as a man of honour towards those whom I myself had so recently recom-

mended to the stations they now hold in government.

"This is the substance, and I believe not far from the words, which I used, and I confess I think it is only in some such short statement of the leading facts, that the respective parties to such a transaction can ever be brought to concur. I cannot but agree with you that the draft of Canning's letter, even as now amended, is much too long, and too detailed for such a purpose. In a narrative of that length and particularity no man can avoid that species of colouring which every one naturally gives in telling his own story, and which would be found to be perfectly different in two such representations of

facts precisely the same.

"The slightest change of the turn of an expression will, as you well know, lead to different inferences in matters of so much delicacy; and in guarding the impression of my conduct, as I endeavoured to guard my conduct itself, against the two extremes of which I am liable to be suspected by different persons, of too great or two little facility on this occasion, I never could concur in and adopt a representation of the details drawn by a person who probably does not feel exactly as I do, as to all the motives which regulated my decision. In such a case I cannot but think that the leading facts are those which can alone be stated by the common consent of both parties; and that the rest must be left to the fairness and mutual good faith of persons honourably and kindly disposed to each other, and who certainly have no intention to misrepresent the particulars.

"In this view I think our joint statement might be shortly thus: that nothing passed on either side but with reference to communications to be subsequently made to the respective friends of each, as the proper foundation of any distinct or

regular discussion or treaty.

"That Lord G[renville] and Mr. C[anning] mutually expressed a desire that circumstances might lead to a renewal of their former connection.

"That Mr. C[anning] described himself as bound by engagements which prevented him from acting otherwise than in concurrence with the body of the Opposition, whom he also described as bound by similar engagements to each other.

"And that it appeared almost immediately that the pretensions of that body were such as could not be satisfied by such facilities as Lord G[renvillc] was likely to find himself enabled to furnish from actual or probable openings, but would require a departure from the determination he uniformly avowed of not forcibly displacing for that purpose any of the persons who had come into office with him. And that on this ground the whole terminated without ever having assumed the shape of a regular negotiation.

"This of course (if any thing like it be adopted as a joint statement) will not preclude either Canning or myseif from stating our own views and impressions as to minuter details: but these will be stated as our own, and, consequently, by just

and reasoning minds will be received as such.

"Had a more particular statement by common consent appeared to me necessary or proper, I should have had to thank you much for your observations, in all which I concur, thinking some of them also extremely material; particularly those which relate to Windham and Lord Melville. I should indeed be sorry to be thought to have admitted a discussion of which Windham's removal formed a part; nor could I acknowledge what was said about Lord Melville to be in any degree a just representation of my sentiments. Nothing of course can now be said as to future intentions; but, speaking of the past even up to this very moment, I must say that if there be one individual in this country to whom I conceive myself to have shown the greatest kindness, and that too with much embarrassment and difficulty, that individual is Lord Melville.

"I also think it most essential that all that has passed on my part should be clearly stated as having had reference to future communication and concert with my friends before it could assume a binding form. I have no pretensions to be (as it stated) the master of the Government I act with. The station I do hold was, as you know, forced upon me by them against my wishes, and I have no desire to carry its pretensions at all higher than necessity requires; much less could I think of acting in such a matter as this without full communication with them, and a determination not only to ask their advice, but to abide by it as far as a man can honestly sacrifice his own judgment to that of others." Copy.

Enclosure.

GEORGE CANNING to [LORD LOWTHER].

"I have not hitherto troubled your Lordship upon the subjects on which we conversed before you left town: because there has been no period till the present, at which I had anything very precise to communicate; and I have not felt myself at liberty to report without a distinct object, what has lately passed between Lord Grenville and myself, through the same confidential channel through which I received that communication in July which I mentioned to your lordship, and afterwards at your house to the persons who were assembled there.

"Since that time Lord Grenville has renewed more than once through the same channel, the expression of his desire to find the means of establishing such a connexion between us, and of making such an opening for me in office as would certainly have left to me personally in that respect nothing to desire. Knowing as you do, my sentiments towards

Lord G[renville] your lordship will readily judge in what way my inclination would have led me to meet such a disposition on his part, had I felt myself at liberty to act upon the impulse

of personal esteem and regard.

But you are aware, at the same time, how impossible it was for me to listen to any separate overture, after the events of the last session; and more especially after the manner in which, in the beginning of the session, some of those persons, of whose disposition towards Lord Grenville we entertained most doubt, had declared their willingness to act with Lord G[renville] and under him, whenever the connexion between him and Fox should be in any way dissolved.

"Nor did the readiness which was expressed on Lord Grenville's part to make any professional arrangement in which Percival and the Master of the Rolls should be comprehended, appear to me so far to vary the nature of the overture as to make it possible for me to avail myself of it without a wider consideration of the persons who had acted together in the

last session.

"In this state things continued till the day before Mr. Fox's death. It had indeed been mutually agreed that any further discussion had best be deferred till after the decision of the two important points then depending, namely the probability of Mr. Fox's recovery, and the question of peace with France. Mr. Fox's death before the other question was determined would have been, of itself, a source of some difficulty. It probably made it necessary for Lord G[renville] to proceed

without delay to make his arrangements.

"And upon that occasion it is but justice to Lord G[renville] to say that I believe that he did seriously turn his thoughts to the possibility of comprehending a larger proportion of Mr. Pitt's friends than he had hitherto had in contemplation; and that he would gladly have found the means of accomplishing that object could he have done so consistently with a determination which he appeared to have laid down to himself, not to disturb the present frame of his government, nor to give up any one of the members of it either in or out of the Cabinet in order to

make way for any new arrangement.

"Upon comparing the number of openings which Lord Grenville had it in his power to make, consistently with this determination, with the number of persons connected with us who had not put themselves out of the question (as some had done) you will agree with me that I was not by any means authorised to encourage Lord Grenville to believe that he could on so narrow a basis found any proposal to the body of Mr. Pitt's friends which would be likely to be deemed satisfactory. And as the whole of Lord Grenville's communications to me (independent of what related to myself personally) were declared to be intended for the purpose of ascertaining amicably and confidentially the prospect of success in any case in which he might find himself

enabled to make a more formal and distinct proposal, I felt myself bound in fairness to Lord G[renville] not to mislead him into a proposal which, according to what I know of the dispositions of those with whom I acted, was not likely to be

favourably received.

"I regret the result: in which I really think that predominancy which your Lordship and I have wished to see of Lord Grenville's power and principles in the administration of the country, is full as nearly concerned as the interest of any individuals. The House of Commons' arrangements certainly are not such as to diminish the objections of those who lamented from the beginning the preponderance of that part of the Government which they viewed with distrust. And it is needless to add that neither you nor I can contemplate without pain Lord Grenville at the head of an administration, the distinctive character of which is that it comprehends, without exception, every political and personal enemy that Pitt ever had; and excludes all those, with the exception only of Lord Grenville himself, and his immediate connexions, who had any share of his friendship and good opinion." Copy.

[The original is published in the Lowther Papers. Pencilled corrections by Lords Wellesley and Grenville on the copy preserved at Dropmore, show that they did not admit the complete accuracy of Mr. Canning's narrative in its methods of representing matters of acknowledged fact.—Ed.]

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 17. Richmond Park.—"Be so good as to read the first part of the enclosed letter, which I received yesterday from Bathurst. It is, I fear, quite necessary to make out and complete the appointment without any delay. Let me beg you to give directions for that purpose, and you will, of course, cause a letter to be written to Lord Charles Spencer. I must also trouble you to inform me whether Bathurst should come to town—previous to the Bristol election—to kiss hands, and when. If you could send a line to me in Clifford Street before five o'clock to-day you would much oblige me, as it would enable me to write to Bathurst by this evening's post."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, October 18. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to submit to your Majesty the warrant for a new Commission for the Admiralty, with the names of Mr. Dickenson and Captain Freemantle in the room of those of Admiral Sir Charles Pole, who is to hoist his flag in the channel fleet, and of Sir Philip Stephens who retires, and to whom it will be humbly submitted to your Majesty in Council to grant such allowance as his long services may be thought to entitle him to expect.

"Lord Grenville takes the liberty of sending this warrant without having previously mentioned the arrangement to your Majesty, because it has only been settled within these two days, and it is important that the Commission should be sealed before the new elections take place." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 19. Wimbledon.—"I have just received letters from Thornton, brought by General Deaken; and the Prussian declaration of war, published at Erfurt on the 9th, in consequence of an answer not having been received on the appointed day to the King of Prussia's demands. An extract of a despatch from Wynne (the original is not received) and a German paper mention some of the movements of the armies. Soult and Davoust with a corps of 16,000 men had advanced to Holt, and General Jauntrien, not having force enought to resist them, had fallen back upon Prince Hohenlohe. A letter from Prince Hohenlohe in the German paper takes notice of a slight affair, in which the French lost 10 men. War then may be considered as having actually commenced. This is all that is material in the papers which have been received, and which I could not delay sending to the King."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to THE SAME.

1806, October 20. Dublin Castle.—"From a conversation I have had with Mr. Elliot I find that Lord Leitrim and Lord Portarlington stand first in the consideration of his Majesty's ministers among the candidates for the representative peerage of Ireland; and as Lord Portarlington, in the interview I had with him, did not press for a promise of the support of government for the first vacancy, I would be gleave to submit to your lordship that Lord Leitrim should be assured of our support for the first vacancy which may occur, it being understood that Lord Portarlington should be supported in the one next immediately succeeding; although it may be inconvenient to hold out any direct promise beyond the first election which may follow that of Lord Charlemont."

EARL FITZWILLIAM to THE SAME.

1806, October 20. Wentworth.—"As Denison, the former candidate for Hull, did not choose to engage again, I have done what I can to secure a peaceable election to the two old members, and hope I have succeeded.

"Pray, don't let anything be done about Scarbro', I mean for the two present members, both enemies; as I have in

contemplation to send one of my own nephews.

"We are engaged in the tremendous business of a contest for this county; Mr. Fawkes is the new candidate. I don't suppose government can do much, or anything; but I solicit at least for the countenance of government for Fawkes.

I believe he will carry it beyond all expectation, the trustces of the Cloth Hall at Leeds have sent a deputation to him to promise their support; and, from appearances, he will have the general support of the manufacturing district."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, October 20. Downing Street.—"I enclose a letter I have received from Lady Townshend. She had applied for the government interest at Yarmouth. It was engaged to Mr. Anson and Mr. Jervis. From what the latter said to me yesterday I doubt whether they will both stand; and if I am left at liberty to support Lord James Townshend by the retreat of Jervis, I shall for many reasons be glad to do so; and still more if it has any effect in smoothing your difficulties in the county. You will perhaps have the opportunity of conversing with Lord Anson and Mr. Coke on the subject; and, of course, I put myself entirely into your hands to do whatever is best for government, and consistent with my former engagements." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 21. Dublin Castle.—"The Lord Lieutenant, who returned from his excursion to Connaught last night, will write to you in the course of this morning on the subject

of the next candidate for representative peerage.

"There is, I fear, little prospect of our securing any of the Irish seats which are to be disposed of for pecuniary considerations. The price we are authorized to give is, I understand, much below what was paid here in the present Parliament, and is very short of what will probably be offered now. We have commenced a negotiation for Tralee, but suspect we shall be outbid by Isaac Corry, who is anxious to buy a seat in the event of his losing Newry, and who will, at my suggestion, apply to you for your assistance in the accomplishment of this object, in case he does not get Tralee.

"Newport is very solicitous for your interest with Lord

Mountnorris in favour of Carew and Colclough."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, October 21. Oxford Street.—"I think your letter might safely be placed in any hands; but I will only read it to the Colonel. He will consider the restoration of his own production as an act of kindness, and I suppose you feel as little inclination as myself to retain that composition; if so, I will return it to him upon receiving it from you. I shall appoint to-morrow at one o'clock for seeing him.

"With respect to the other point I had written to Arthur; but I cannot expect his answer before Thursday morning. In the meanwhile, if time should press, I wish you to fill the seat according to any other arrangement which you may have

in contemplation."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HENRY PETTY.

1806, October 22. Downing Street.—"I return you the papers respecting the proposed medical regulations. The subject will, in my judgment, require much discussion, and consideration, before government shall be pledged to it. There is no doubt that it is very desirable to secure the benefit of a regular education to all who are to practice in the different branches of physic; but, considering how very difficult and expensive such an education is, and what uphill work a physician and surgeon has to struggle with in his outset, I should not like to add to the expenses of his setting out.

"I should recommend that the matter should be referred to a committee of the House of Commons, and that a few members of real talent and understanding (and grounded if possible in the true principles of political economy) should be requested to give their attention to it; for the matter is one of infinite importance. Aid that is not the best is still often very valuable to those who have no means of getting better; and we should have to reproach ourselves for ever if we had made the attainment of that more difficult in such cases." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, October 22. Downing Street.—"I am happy to hear that everything is so satisfactorily settled at Hull. I have had no application respecting Scarboro, and your nephew would, of course, be entitled to my best wishes.

"Phipps is a decided enemy, and I have always heard that his is the weakest interest. The Duke of Rutland has hitherto been against, but there are strong appearances of his

being now inclined to support us.

"In Yorkshire my wishes would of course be for Wilberforce and Fawkes. I do not know whether there is any hope that the thing may take this course. I do not suppose that my wishes (be they what they may) can have the smallest influence in that immense body of voters." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 22. Lynn.—"Though appearances here are sufficiently promising, and friends warm and sanguine, the undertaking is a very arduous one, and the event anything but certain. My consolation is that the risk to me in point of expense though great, is limited, and that, in any event, no complaint will be made of me as not having acted fairly and liberally. It is the best I could hope from a step not dictated originally by any very considerate prudence.

"All agree that great exertions are necessary, and there is as great a call (not without some mixture of complaint) for evidences of the government influence. Thetford stands as a strong example, where the whole town has been carried by a man having a brother and his nephews, one of them his son-in-law, in one of the principal offices of government.

"Mr. Howard is another great instance who has been active beyond measure, and beyond his usual character, still more, contrary to his usual character, is said to be likely a large

contributor to the expense.

"The Mr. Grigson also, whom I mentioned to Freemantle the other morning, has been and continues to be most active. Would there be any objection to removing him from his appointment (a control commissary at 15s. per day) and substituting in his place a man well known here, and known also as a friend of mine, and whose appointment would be very popular, at least at Norwich; a Mr. Charles Reynolds whom I have long wished to provide for, though I have not liked to

trouble you.

"But a worse business than all (of another sort) has broke out in the discontent of Lord Townshend, who threatens to withdraw from Coke and me the whole of his interest, in consequence of the disappointment at Norwich. Is it possible to pacify them by the offer of a seat for Lord James in some other place, suppose in lieu of that which I shall leave open in case of my success here. I am the more distressed at this because I fear I have been myself in some degree to blame in not mentioning to you Lord Townshend's wishes earlier. It would be a great consolation to me to know that your answer to Anson had preceded the time when I could possibly have spoke to you about Lord Townshend. But, in the mean[time], pray write to Lady Townshend, as their defection may probably make the whole difference of success or failure.

"I must break off, as there is a whole company below

clamouring for me to begin a canvass."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, October 24. Roehampton.—"You sent to me on Wednesday last two long papers from Mr. Lushington on the subject of the alleged sufferings of the West India planters under the actual system of taxation: (1) by the quantum of the taxes; (2) by the mode in which the duties are levied upon the quantity without regard to the quality; and (3) on the war tax on exports, which is asserted to be a tax entirely on the

planter, and not on the purchaser.

"Mr. Lushington states his case so diffusely, and in terms so little conciliating, that it is difficult to know how to answer him; but he is more especially angry that you have not even acknowledged his remonstrances; and perhaps if it be not done, you will think proper to direct Mr. Fisher to write in your name, that his letters of the 13th August and 12 October have been received, and will be duly considered with all the other representations on the subject, previously to the opening of the ensuing session of Parliament. In fact we have had much

discussion on the subject, and I have collected many accounts and much information to be submitted to you respecting it, and mean to put the whole into some connected abstract. But it will be difficult, if not impracticable, to give any satisfaction to the complainants without too much loss and risk to the revenue. In the meantime Mr. Lushington repeats coarsely in every page that government acknowledges its own ignorance, and refuses to be informed; that the planters are degraded and used worse than the negro slaves; and finally he intimates that unless some prompt satisfaction shall be given, he will communicate to the public the contents of his letter to your Lordship. I really should not be sorry if he were to carry that threat into effect, as soon as we have settled some outline of proceeding; and when Lord Penrhyn, and others concerned, shall have returned to town, I believe the best move will be for me to sacrifice two or three mornings to a discussion with them.

"There is an opposition at Oxford, a Mr. Lockhart, and at Woodstock, Mr. Annesley, a neighbouring gentleman of some weight. But I believe there is no danger as to the ultimate result; and there is a severe contest at Windsor, which will

subject Colonel Vansittart to great expense."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, October 24. Downing Street.—"I send you a letter from Lady Downshire and my answer. I never have heard anything from Lord de Clifford, and I suppose it is best therefore

to support Lady Downshire.

"A seat is secured to me for Corry if he should fail in his Irish arrangements. All looks well here. In case of failure at Waterford, Lord Buckingham brings in Newport. If you write to him pray say so; I have not time." Copy.

EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 24. Wentworth.—"Fawke's canvas goes on beyond all expectation; which of the two old members will go to the wall, I know not, but I am inclined to think Wilberforce will be the strongest in point of numbers; but, taking the purse into consideration, whether he will be the most successful is another question.

"Scarbro' will not do; I have given it up. I have done

my best to keep Hull quiet.

"To my great surprise, I find that Lord Sefton will not stand for Liverpool; and that Gascoigne and Tarleton will come in, for want of a friend to Government offering. A Lancashire gentleman, now become a Yorkshireman (Mr. Hodgson) has desired me to give him a letter to Mr. Heywood, which I have done, as a candidate, in case the post is not already occupied by some other friend. Should it prove so, let me beg in that case the assistance of Government for Mr. Hodgson."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, October 24. Holkham.—"Great as your state of hurry and fatigue is, it is hardly equal to mine. I have seen Lady Townshend and pacified her, more by my contrition than by my defence, in respect to myself; but I don't know that her purposes relax with respect to withdrawing her support for the county, which must nearly be decisive. The best of all arrangements would be the procuring a seat for Jervis, or his withdrawing, which your letter seemed to give hopes of. The next would be the providing a seat for Lord James; but I cannot equally urge this, because it would give at last but incomplete satisfaction. The Townshends certainly were ejected from Yarmouth in a way of which they might complain, though not of you; and which one does not like upon general principles.

"My own mind upon this subject is rather lighter from thinking, upon the whole, that nothing was lost by my neglect. But this tells nothing as to consequences in the county, which certainly may be conclusive if they choose to make them so; and their not choosing to make them so, should that be ultimately their determination, is not a reason while [why?] less anxiety should be felt to favour their views

with respect to Yarmouth, if it be possible."

Postscript.—"There is a Mr. Oakes, the Receiver at Bury in Suffolk, who has certainly been unfriendly, and been said to be active against us."

THE SAME TO THE SAME.

1806, October 24. Norwich.—"I take the opportunity of a messenger whom I am sending back to say, that letters from Rainham still continue to threaten opposition for the county, though I think unreasonably, and therefore I hope not seriously. The whole question, as it respects Government, is whether you could have felt yourself at liberty to set aside Jervis or Anson in favour of Lord James Townshend. Jervis, I conceive, you certainly could not, placed as he would seem to have been under the protection of Lord Howick; and Anson not more so, with the pretensions which his brother has from property and connexions. The rest would be mere resentment to me, for not having sooner apprized Lady Townshend that nothing could be done. My own mind is considerably more at ease from the persuasion that no real mischief has happened from my neglect. Should it happen that, in the confusion which is now likely to arise to the borough, two other candidates, Harbord and Lushington, being said to have appeared, Jervis should withdraw, I should then strongly importune you to let the Townshend application prevail. It would be a great relief and a great gratification to me to be instrumental in rendering this service to a family I am so much connected with, and to such a very early friend as Lady Townshend. The business here, unless this defection should take place of the Townshend interest, I rather think will succeed; though not without a contest, and probably a very severe one. Dangers however are threatening from every side, and one is from a contest here in the city. The sitting members are the persons to be supported by Government; though I, individually, positively refuse to take any part. Patteson of the House of Commons is the person who has been put up, and by a portion of my former friends;

but I think he will hardly persist.

"In letters to-day, as well as in others, I talked to you about government influence. The Bidwells pursue us everywhere. Another brother, likewise a brewer, has been doing all the mischief he can in a town which I have been canvassing to-day, Dereham. Grigson likewise meets me at every turn. He has been most active and inveterate. admonition now will be of no service. He has done his mischief. The use to be made of him is as an example, and in that way he would be most valuable. The mention in the county papers that Mr. Charles Reynolds was appointed to the place so and so, lately held by Mr. Grigson, would be of sovereign effect. odd condition has been found in the whole of this, of which one has said nothing because there did not appear to be any remedy, namely, that some of the most active and eager opponents have been the connexions of part of the Ministry. The most zealous canvasser in my neighbourhood has been Dr. Hay of Christ Church, Bragge's brother-in-law. I am anxious to return on various accounts, but I fear it will not be possible for me before Tuesday or Wednesday."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, October 25. Downing Street.—"You will see what I have written to the Lord Lieutenant about Lord Ely. I own I think, if the matter is open to compromise, it would be far better to do it, supposing that Newport's election as well as Colclough's could thus be secured.

"No more than the sum we mentioned is, I understand, asked here for the generality of cases. In some instances,

perhaps, more may be given.

"Lord Mountnorris is pressing me for an English peerage which he cannot have; and this makes me rather shy of urging him much about the Wexford election." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 25. Dublin Castle.—"I am sorry that I cannot report to you any successful progress in my negotiations for the close seats.

"Mr. Justice Day, who, in his capacity of trustee for the Denys' family, has the management of the borough of Tralce, assures me that he had two proposals, each of which exceeds

the offer I was authorized to make by more than 1,000l. Both the parties however with whom he is in treaty are, as he states,

likely to be friendly to Government.

"Lord Enniskillen tells me in confidence that he has for a long while past been in treaty with Mr. Knox, the candidate for the county of Tyrone, who wants a seat for his son; and that he has also had a considerable offer from Fitzgerald, the late Prime Serjeant. If this negotiation with them should be broken off, he will apprize me of the circumstance. At the same time I fear he will expect a greater price than I am authorized to propose.

"Pennefather has not yet given me a positive answer with

respect to Cashel.

"Handcock has promised to communicate with me on the subject of Athlone in the course of a few days. I have, nevertheless, very little hope of his acceding to our terms.

"The state of Dundalk you will learn by a letter which the Lord Lieutenant has received from Lord Roden, and which he

has transmitted to Lord Spencer.

"Lord Charleville has been twice written to about Carlow, but I have not yet heard from him. Lord Hardwicke, while he was in Ireland, had views upon that seat for a private friend; and I suspect that the negotiation, which he commenced with Lord Charleville, is still pending.

"You promised to ascertain whether Portarlington can be secured, and will probably avail yourself of the intervention of Lord Dorchester, who has great influence over Lord

Portarlington.

"Grattan will, I think, certainly be selected for Dublin, but there will be a hard contest between Latouche and Shaw.

"Peter Latouche has relinquished his pretensions to the county of Leitrim, though he had a fair prospect of being returned. Mr. White therefore (the son of Luke White the candidate for the county of Dublin) will come in without

opposition.

of the person who was private secretary to Fox) is supported by Lady Downshire for Downpatrick, and has by much the strongest interest there. I have therefore ventured to give him an assurance of the countenance of Government. By aiding Lord de Clifford in that borough we should offend both Lady Downshire and Mr. Ruthven, without being able to render Lord de Clifford any essential service.

"The Attorney-General, after having given the subject very mature deliberation, declines coming into Parliament, stating that he could not do it without sustaining such a loss in point of professional emolument as would most materially affect his fortune. I have since made the proposal to the Solicitor who has asked a little time to consider it, and the Chancellor has promised to talk to him upon it. It will be absolutely necessary that we should have an Irish lawyer in the House, and I most anxiously hope you will be able to retain

a seat for the purpose."

Postscript.—"I forgot to mention that I had in my interview with Lord Enniskillen an explanation with him in respect to his political inclinations, and he assured me that he was to be considered as friendly to the present Government. Under these circumstances I presume you would not disturb him in his county. Mr. Brooke, a gentleman of the county of Fermanagh, would stand in opposition to Lord Enniskillen's brother, if he were assisted by Government."

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 25. Phœnix Park.—"I have the honour to return your lordship the enclosed letter from Lord Dillon on the subject of the Constableship of Athlone. No application has been received by the Government on this side of the water for the reversion of that office, but I conceive that, should such an application be made, the same answer will be returned to it as has been given to all requests for reversionary grants by the present Government; and I think your lordship may with perfect propriety state this to Lord Dillon."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, October 25. Downing Street.—"What your grace proposes respecting Lord Leitrim and Lord Portarlington will, I think, be perfectly satisfactory. Lord Ely has applied to me offering friendship and support, and proposing to compromise the county of Wexford by returning one member each. I told Sir Robert Wigram, who came to me for this purpose, that I could have personally no indisposition to Lord Ely, but that if engagements of a different nature had been entered into, he must know that they must be fulfilled; and that on that subject I could only refer him to the Government in Ireland, who could alone judge of local circumstances that might make such a proposal proper to be accepted or not.

"I imagine that he, like many others, finds that the support of Government is indispensably necessary to the maintenance

of his own interest."

Postscript.—"Every thing seems to promise well here. We have, however, an untoward circumstance in Westminster. The Duke of Northumberland is so offended at Sheridan's standing, that he withdraws Lord Percy. I mean, if I can, to induce Sir Samuel Hood to offer himself; but I fear no other candidate will have as quiet an election as Lord Percy would have had. I heartily wish Lord Tavistock had been of age." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 25. Seymour Place.—"I enclose Lauder-dalc's answer which I have just received. I conclude that your determination will be to support Colleade and Allen.

"In my way here I met Lord Thanet, who had just left a meeting of the Kentish people. They intend to support Lord Marsham in conjunction with Honeywood, if Lord Romney's previous engagements do not stand in the way. If Lord Marsham stands for the county, some other candidate will be proposed on the same interests for Hythe. I thought it necessary to mention this in consequence of what passed this morning about Sir William Geary, as you probably will think it right to suspend any determination about the second candidate till this is settled. Any thing will be better than Knatchbull."

Private. VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to THE SAME.

1806, October 25. Richmond Park.—"The intelligence received last night from Holland is, I daresay, far beyond the truth; but still it is too probable that success has hitherto been on the side of the French. Under these circumstances, it seems to me very questionable whether we should be justified in sending just at this moment, so large a proportion of our best infantry as 4,000 men in pursuit of what may be deemed a new object, and with a view to interests separately and exclusively our own. Of the importance of that object I think as highly as any one, and I am also fully aware of the strong objections which apply to the employment of British troops on the continent in conjunction with those of other powers. But if Prussia is hard pressed, she can only be saved by powerful co-operation; and Austria ought to afford it instantly, if she hopes to save herself. The inducement to afford it will not, I fear, be effectual without some military as well as pecuniary aid from Great Britain. I mean by demonstrations on our own coasts, and strong diversions on those of the enemy. If Prussia signs a second treaty of Presburg, Austria is lost."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, October 26.—"Having heard nothing more from you respecting Canning, I suppose that the affair is at an end. Pray let me hear to-night from you, as I shall probably go out of town to-morrow. If you wish to see him, he can be in

town to-morrow or next day.

"I send a letter from Colonel Wood, which I have marked with a pencil where he appears to me entirely to mistate your letter, which I read to him without comment. You will judge whether you will give the Colonel a copy of your letter to me. It would perhaps be the easiest mode of removing his error, which cannot be otherwise than sincere."

Enclosure.

Most confidential. N. Wood to Marquis Wellesley.

1806, October 24. Pall Mall.—"For the purpose of preventing mistakes, as your lordship was pleased to express

a wish that I would commit to writing the subject of our conversation at the time you were so obliging as to read to me Lord Grenville's letter; in compliance with your desire, I have now the honour of stating what, to the best of my recollection, passed upon the occasion. I begged your lordship would assure Lord Grenville that I was perfectly satisfied that his lordship must have had substantial reasons for disappointing my expectations of being immediately appointed to the government of Malta; and that I felt myself much flattered by Lord Grenville's very handsome and friendly assurances of his disposition to forward my views, so soon as an opportunity occurs. I begged of your lordship to add, that from the high respect which I had for his lordship's abilities; from the sense which I entertained of his lordship's just discernment of what, at this very critical and trying period, was the line of conduct to be pursued most conducive to the honour and to the security of his country; exclusive of any views of my own, I had determined to give Lord Grenville's administration the whole of my political support.

"That, in pursuance of this, it was my determination to

"That, in pursuance of this, it was my determination to fill the four seats, my own property, with gentlemen as much attached to his lordship's administration as if they had been

named by the Treasury.

"That in respect to Gatton, I meant to bring in a new connection of my own in conjunction with myself, by which means both seats would remain at my own disposal, and might be vacated whenever Lord Grenville might think my services might be employed more beneficially to my country in some other situation.

"That in regard to Shaftesbury, notwithstanding that his lordship and the public had been informed of a very formidable attack making against my property by two gentlemen sent down by Mr. Calcraft (an agent of government), and notwithstanding that this unexpected opposition must give me a good deal of trouble, and incur a very considerable expense, yet that I could assure his lordship I had every reason to believe that those deputies of Mr. Calcraft stood not the smallest chance of success; and that I had in consequence named two gentlemen—equally attached to Lord Grenville; so that, at all events, Lord Grenville may reckon on Shaftesbury, the same which ever way the issue of this contest may terminate.

"It is, however, a favourable opportunity of calling Lord Grenville's attention to the very particular situation of the borough of Shaftesbury. About five years ago, this estate was seized by a writ for a debt to the Crown, due from Mr. Paul Benfield, and sold by government to me for the sum of 35,000l. At this time, this property stands me upwards of

60,000l.

"During these last four years I have had upwards of 30,000l. of my purchase money, in consideration of my agreement for the purchase of this Shaftesbury estate, lodged in

the Exchequer, and to this hour have never had con-

veyed to me a single cottage of this property.

"It is in this situation, and under the circumstances already mentioned, whilst I have an agreement with Government for the purchase of this estate, and, including interest, upwards of 32,000l. lodged in the Exchequer, that an agent of Government sends down two gentlemen to combat with me, and to rob me of the political interest which, it is obvious to every person, could have been the sole and only object for my making

the purchase.

"Far be it from me however to impute to Government the smallest blame upon this account. From circumstances within my own knowledge, Government was not apprized of what Mr. Calcraft had done; and unfortunately Mr. Calcraft had suffered himself to be circumvented by a Mr. Messiter, a most worthless Shaftesbury attorney; who, at the same time that he stood pledged to me by the most solemn pledge and engagement to support my interest, came up to treat with Mr. Calcraft for the sale of my borough, and positively pledged himself to bring in two members. Mr. Messiter's letter pledging himself for ever to support my interest, I put into the hands of Lord Moira to show Lord Spencer; and a stronger instance of depravity and villainy seldom occurs."

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, October 26. Downing Street.—"I return you the original of my letter to you respecting Colonel Wood. I need hardly observe to you how very far that letter is from containing the assurances which Colonel Wood seems to have understood it as expressing, but which it would be quite impossible for mc to give; as indeed I there explain. The particulars respecting other points to which he refers cannot, of course, be entered into by me. I was totally unapprized of the circumstances stated in his letter, and certainly have never had any intention of acting with hostility to Colonel Wood." Copy.

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 27. Phænix Park.—"It gave me much satisfaction to learn from my friend Adam that he has determined to come into Parliament; and from an intimate knowledge of the integrity of his mind, and of his earnest zeal and support of the principles upon which the present government acts, as well as from an entire confidence in the solidity of his judgment and his talents, I am persuaded that in the great chasm which has been left by the sad loss we have sustained, you will find him a very valuable acquisition to your strength in the House of Commons. Mr. Adam certainly makes no inconsiderable sacrifice of professional emoluments by his determination, and I am sure your lordship will be as anxious as I can be that the interests of his family should not

eventually suffer by it. I think it, however, but a justice due to him to state to you, that in a conversation he had with. Fox in my presence, on the formation of the present administration, he told him that his views were directed towards an honourable retreat in his own country; and that he trusted he might look to one of the higher legal offices in Scotland whenever such might become vacant; which Fox, without hesitation, acknowledged to be an object of reasonable and fair ambition, and to which he was ready to give his most cordial assistance."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 27. Dublin Castle.—"The negotiation, in which Lord Enniskillen was first engaged, is broken off, and he tells me that he has had a fresh offer of 5,000l. for the Parliament, but will give the refusal, at that price, to Government. I shall therefore thank you to let me be informed, as soon as you can, whether you have any friend who will lay down that sum. You are, however, to understand that Lord Enniskillen will reserve the seat for his brother Colonel Cole until he is able to ascertain the result of the county election; but, with the support of Government, I conceive Colonel Cole's return for Fermanagh will be secure.

"Mr. Dupré had promised his second votes in the county of Derry to Mr. Ogilby, who declines standing, and is warmly in Colonel Ponsonby's interest. The Chancellor is consequently most anxious to obtain Mr. Dupré's second votes for Colonel Ponsonby, and you will oblige him much if you can

assist him in the accomplishment of this object.

"I enclose Lord Charleville's answer relative to Carlow. He states that he imagines the gentleman to whom he has disposed of the seat is friendly to administration, but I suspect

that he has sold it to Lord Hardwicke's friend.

"I am afraid the Solicitor-General will decline coming into Parliament, though I have refused to take his answer to-day. At any rate I trust you will reserve a seat, as it will be absolutely necessary to have a lawyer in the House for Irish business."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, October 27. Downing Street.—"The politicians on your side of the water seem much more eager than ours. There is therefore no remedy, and we have only to hope that those who bid so high will be favourably disposed to us when they come.

"I would by no means wish to disoblige Lord Enniskillen, but, on the contrary, to cultivate the favourable dispositions he

expresses

"I wrote to Lord Dorchester. His answer was that he would write to Lord Portarlington, but I have heard no more of it.

"I had anticipated your decision about Downpatrick, and am clearly of opinion that Lady Downshire must be supported.

"I hope we shall be able to keep a seat for Bushe, and he

ought undoubtedly to be in Parliament.

Lord Mountnorris came to-day. Lord Valentia is come, and Lord Mountnorris states that he could come in for Wexford-or that he has an offer of a seat for him if he will join Lord Ely. Their interests cannot be settled at a distance, and so I told him, and recommended him to let Lord V[alentia] close his travels by a trip to Dublin. My advice would be to support Carew and Lord Ely's man there; for Colclough is not likely to be ever of any use to us here, being a resident in France, whether compulsorily or by choice I do not know." Copy.

THE SAME to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, October 27. Downing Street.—"I take the liberty of submitting herewith to your Royal Highness the list of the Scotch Peers which is to be proposed for the support of the friends of government, and humbly to suggest that if your Royal Highness should be disposed to vote on this occasion it might be necessary that the Lord Chanceller should receive your Royal Highness's commands when he should have the honour of attending your Royal Highness for the purpose of administering the oaths of qualification.

"Your Royal Highness will have heard the unfortunate news from Germany. We have as yet no particulars; but, although some exaggeration is perhaps to be allowed for, yet I have no doubt it will turn out to have been a very considerable defeat." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 28. Eden Farm.—"We yesterday had an application which embarrasses me, more especially as I am urged to decide it on Thursday morning. Messieurs Gordon and Murphy received (in last June) licences for ten neutral ships to go from Cadiz (with quicksilver) to Vera Cruz, to return to British ports with four millions of dollars to the account of the Spanish Government. It was a hardy measure, but you thought it expedient at the time, partly on the disputable ground of resulting advantage to our circulation and trade, and partly as a fulfilment of the contract made by Mr. Pitt. I supposed however that the transaction was then closed. A claim is now brought forwards for ten more licences for ten more neutral ships to go from Spanish ports to Spanish settlements with quicksilver, to bring back six millions of Spanish dollars. I should not hestitate if the vessels went from British ports with British manufactures, to bring the dollars to British or neutral account. On the whole a short opinion from you will much relieve me.

"Another embarrassment! The Honduras settlers apply for permission to import American beef and pork in American vessels, on the allegation that they must otherwise be starved. If we give way we must have a Bill of Indemnity, and (what is worse) Trinidad and the other settlements will make a similar application.

The American Commissioners are at present very frequent, very earnest, and very long in their conferences, and seem desirous to arrive at some practical arrangement.

"I expected the Prussian catastrophe, but I grieve at it; more especially as their struggle seems to have been made with a display of courage beyond expectation."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, October 28. Downing Street.—"We had given notice to Gordon and Murphy (according to the reservation in their contract) that we shall not want the further supply of dollars. Vansittart can explain the whole to you. I should certainly be against giving them any licence not actually required by contract.

"Will not the bill of last session authorize all that is wanted for Honduras? I am totally against breaches of the law and indemnities." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, October 28. Downing Street.—"I cannot resist the impulse of writing to you to press you in the strongest manner that all the friends of Government in Yorkshire may, as much as possible, be induced to vote for Wilberforce jointly with Fawkes. Independently of my own long friendship and sincere regard for him, I really think that his character is such as would render his rejection much to be lamented.

"Lascelles, though undoubtedly a man of fair and honourable character, is a decided political enemy; and as such a natural object of our opposition. Both the sentiments and conduct of Wilberforce have been uniformly friendly to the present Government; and, in the last session, he gave us active and useful assistance by speaking on the military questions. It would give me great pain if he had reason to think that there was any slackness on the part of Government in giving him in return such aid as is in our power; and it would certainly be very impolitic to suffer, if we can prevent it, the election of Lascelles, a decided enemy, instead of Wilberforce who has uniformly supported us."

Postscript.—"You will receive by this post the melancholy bulletin of the Prussian defeat, as stated in the Hague Gazette. A little exaggeration may perhaps be allowed for in news from that source, but of the substance there is no room to doubt."

Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 28. Yarmouth.—"I find by the canvass this morning, what was not quite clear from the last letter which I received from Lady Townshend, that the Townshend interest may be expected to be exerted against us to the full extent in the county. If so, notwithstanding all our general success, and the effect that may be produced by a more vigorous exertion of the Government influence, it is impossible

to say what the event of the election it to be.

"I shall write to Lady Townshend, if I possibly can this morning, to say that, if such is their determination, and that notwithstanding all the concern which I have expressed and felt, and all the proofs which I think there are that nothing has really been lost through me in a business which they never distinctly explained to me, they are resolved to avenge upon me the quarrel which they have with Government (for such is the footing on which Lady Townshend put it) there remains nothing but that we should make war to the utmost in our turn; and that, even if a compromise at Yarmouth should take place, there will be no endeavour to turn it to their advantage.

"Jervis, I understand, still hesitates, at least did an hour or two ago, being uncertain whether Lord St. Vincent means to assist him in point of expense. The difficulty in that case of bringing in another candidate to support Anson may make a compromise desirable, and then the question will arise between Lord James Townshend and Lushington; for, as I mentioned in my letter of last night, or rather this morning,

Lushington will be far preferable to Harbord.

"A vessel that left the Dutch coast on the 20th (I don't know from what part) says they had at that time no report of any action between the French and Prussians, though such an

account was hourly expected.

"Comte d'Artois writes me word of an intention of raising foreign regiments, and wishes, of course, that an opportunity should be given, in that case, for recommendations which he would have to offer. I have discouraged hitherto any such intention, and take it for granted that none such exists, at least that nothing will be done about it till I come back. But, in fact, till the foreign regiments now subsisting are filled up, there is no room for any such step."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, October 29. Eden Farm.—"I have just received from Messieurs Gordon and Murphy a copy of their contract. They do not set up any demand on Government to take a further supply; but they contend that, by the agreement with the Treasury, the are entitled to licenses for whatever number of neutral vessels they may require or think necessary to accomplish the bringing of the ten millions of dollars from South America; and that those vessels may be sent from

any port in Europe; consequently, from the port of an enemy, with the merchandise and produce of an enemy, to bring the treasure of an enemy. Mr. Vansittart is to meet me at the Board to-morrow; I certainly should be glad if it were practicable to resist the requisition.

Private.—"It has been intimated to me that Glenbervie would be glad to give up his time and attention to the appeals at the Cockpit, with a disposition diligently and honourably to serve under your government, and with reasonable expectation to be compensated* for a service so material, and so necessary, under the circumstance of Sir William Scott and the Master of the Rolls being ill-disposed at present towards us. Lord Fitzwilliam had consulted me some months ago as to the expediency of employing one of the judges, but there were obvious objections to it. I do not think Lord Glenbervie open to any objections, and his being out of Parliament would be an advantage. He is conversant in the business, is a well-grounded lawyer, very temperate, and formerly practised at the Cockpit. And if proper in other respects, it would be an inducement that, by his removal from his late office, he is left most incompetently provided for; having only 600l. to Lady Glenbervie, and 600l. to his son, yielding together only 800l."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 29. Dublin Castle.—" Lord Ely called on me immediately after I had received your letter of the 25th instant. As we are positively pledged to Carew and Colclough, explained to Lord Ely that the interest of government was engaged, and that I regretted he had not made an earlier application. I have since consulted the Chancellor on the possibility of prevailing on Colclough to relinquish his pretensions, but he thinks, perhaps with some reason, that even if Colclough were to consent to such an arrangement (which is not likely) the support of Lord Ely's candidate would render Government unpopular with the Catholics. I was very anxious in the spring that some understanding should be had with Lord Ely with a view to the general election, but Newport and some of our eager friends were persuaded we should carry both members. This I still doubt. Carew is by much our most respectable candidate. The Colclough family were once of very suspicious politics; and John Colclough, who now stands in consequence of the continuance of his brother's imprisonment in France, was accused of a strong leaning to the side of the United Irishmen at the time of the rebellion. However, he is perfectly cured, I believe, of this frenzy; and the interest of his family in Wexford has the countenance of the Ponsonbys.

^{*} A fund for the payment might be made from the King's prize-money.

"I have seen Handcock, who means to be returned for Athlone himself. If he should alter his intention, he is to inform me of it.

"Your letter of the 24th instant (by a messenger despatched by Portpatrick) has just reached me. I will advise Corry and Newport of seats being secured for them in the event of their failure in their present objects. If it had been practicable to have compromised Wexford, we could not have assisted Newport by the arrangement, as Mr. Boulton (not Alcock) is his antagonist at Waterford.

"As upon mature consideration I thought it best that Government should support Lady Downshire's candidate for Downpatrick, I made the intimation to a friend of Mr. Ruthven's yesterday, and am very glad to find the

decision has your approbation.

"This morning's post has brought me the enclosed letter from Parnell. Pray have the goodness to apprize me by express, whether if Coote should offer himself, he is not to have the aid of Government against Pole.

"The answer of the Solicitor-General as to coming into

Parliament is the same at the Attorney's.

"I really know not what under these circumstances is to be done, for it is absolutely essential that Newport should have the aid of an *Irish* lawyer in Parliament. If Hawthorn were brought in, perhaps means might be devised of compensating him for his assistance by giving him fees on the drawing of Bills. One of the law officers however would have carried much more weight and authority in the House, and either the Attorney or Solicitor would have been a great acquisition in point of strength. The former would, I am convinced, prove the best legal debater since the days of Thurlow and Wedderburn."

Enclosure.

H. PARNELL to W. ELLIOT.

1806, October 28. Emo Park.—"As the information I have received by this day's post gives me reason to suppose that Colonel Coote will be a candidate for this county, and thereby give rise to a contest, I beg leave to solicit, as a very necessary measure to be taken on my part, the active support of Government.

"At present it does not occur to me that it would be requisite for me to desire any other application than one to the Bishop of Ferns, and a second to the Bishop of Ossory. Lord Temple has given me his interest, and Mrs. Coote has given me the interest of her son Sir Charles Coote, in consequence of my connection with Government.

"You will have better opportunities than I have of ascertaining how far the assistance of Government may be made of service to me, and I shall feel it to be a very

particular act of kindness if you will have the goodness to take such opportunities as may occur to promote my interest.

"The success I have met with on my canvass leaves me not the smallest reason to doubt of my success. Nor can I imagine that Mr. Pole is in the least danger. The whole of the resident gentlemen, with a very few exceptions indeed, being engaged to him or me."

Private. LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 29.—"I enclose the outline of an article on the pressing of American seamen, drawn up, as you will see, very hastily and imperfectly by Lord Auckland and myself at our last meeting. The wording, of course, is objectionable, but we are both anxious to know whether the substance and general form of it are such as you would approve. Of course such an experiment could only be made for a given period, and that a short one; but as we meet the Americans to-morrow, and are likely to talk chiefly on this article, we wish to know by that time if you have any insuperable objection to the substance of it, that we may not intentionally deceive them as to the final result of their demand on this part of the subject.

"We have delivered in a very long and detailed statement of the progress of our negociations; but, to save you the trouble of reading through it at present, I thought that the best method was to consult you on this article separately."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, October 29. Downing Street.—"I have not answered your letters in the daily expectation of seeing you here. It would have been a thing personally agreeable to me if Jervis, by retiring, had enabled me to support Lord James Townshend at Yarmouth; a course I should certainly have been desirous of following from the beginning if I had known Lord Townshend's intention in time. If that cannot be, I am sorry for it, but cannot break my word for them any more than for anybody else.

"I know nothing of any project of more foreign corps, and certainly do not feel more disposed to such a plan than

you arc.

"Grigson I enquired about, and learn that he has been two years and more out of his office; we have therefore no control over him. The others I will enquire about." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HOLLAND.

1806, October 30. Downing Street.—"I own I feel great difficulties on the first view of the proposed article about pressing. They arise chiefly from my strong sense of the impossibility of obtaining anything like a fair execution of the American part of this stipulation.

"The whole must, I think, be considered by the Cabinet before you can pledge Government to it."

LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 30. Foreign Office.—"I should be very sorry to do anything that would pledge the Government upon so delicate a question till the Cabinet had been consulted, and as that should be speedily done, was anxious to let you know to what point we were likely to bring the American Commissioners. They wish to have something specific to state to their Government by next packet, and if the Cabinet can sit upon this part of the subject next week, I must trouble you before-hand with one more communication, as I should like to ascertain your view of this point before we met there."

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 30. Dublin Castle.—" Pennefather has been offered 5,000 guineas for his seat by Bagwell. He will, however, let us have it for 4,000 guineas, provided his son is substituted in his place at the Board of Stamps. Pray let me have an immediate answer by express; and if you accede to the proposal, I shall thank you for the name of the person

whom you wish to be returned."

Postscript.—"Your letter of the 27th instant reached me a few minutes ago. It will, I fear, be quite impossible to make any compromise about Wexford, for the reasons I stated to you in my letter of yesterday. We could not without the intervention of the Chancellor ask Colclough to release us from our engagement, and the Chancellor is averse from such an arrangement. One of his reasons, in which I confess I think there is some weight, is that the dereliction of either of our present candidates would offend the Catholics, Lord Ely being a leading person in the Orange interest. The Chancellor, however, is much too sanguine in his impression of our chance of carrying both candidates.

"Since I wrote the above the Chancellor has been here, and says Sir Frederick Flood has promised his interest to him in support of Carew and Colclough, which is a material step

towards success."

Postscript. Private.—"Frederick Ponsonby, Lord Besborough's second son, comes in for the county of Kilkenny instead of George Ponsonby, and the Chancellor seems to entertain an idea of setting up George Ponsonby for the King's County, which would interfere either with Sir Lawrence Parsons, or Mr. Bernard, both a part of Lord Rosse's interest. The Chancellor's nephew must, I presume, be supported, but the arrangement would, I am afraid, give great umbrage to Lord Rosse."

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 30. Wentworth.—"I grieve that one must not withhold one's credit from the disastrous accounts from the Continent; without a miracle, the whole continent is subjugated, and it remains for these little islands to maintain their independence by their spirit and energy, for without both spirit and energy, local circumstances will avail but little, when all the resources of this amazing power are directed to

one object; but to the business of the day.

"Fawke's friends are more inclined to Wilberforce than to Lascelles, but circumstances and appearances must direct their conduct. It is a great object to get the business settled without incurring all the inconvenience of a poll. If it goes to a poll, it will cost each party from 50 to 60,000l. At least this is our calculation; and probably Fawke's expense will be less than either of the others, as the numerous corps of freeholders in the manufacturing country declare their intention of bearing their own expenses. Perhaps many of the same people may give Wilberforce a second vote, and exonerate him likewise from all charge. Notwithstanding this, we must look to the calculation above stated as the probable result of the poll; a consideration so serious, that if circumstances arise likely to save it, the parties most probably will profit of them.

"As yet Wilberforce and Lascelles stand distinct, and without connexion or communication; at least so I collect from appearances as well as from public declarations. But I am afraid the private conversation of W[ilberforce] will not do much to strengthen the favourable disposition of Fawke's friends towards him. To a particular friend of mine, one he knows to be so, and not to be his friend, he acknowledged a preference for Lascelles. If he holds such conversation to a friend of mine, what must be his language to a friend of Lascelles, or to a friend of his own. It is an acknowledgment that will raise a spirit of hostility to him in Fawke's friends, and will convert their favourable disposition towards him into a very contrary sentiment.

"I undertake for nothing, but it will be morally impossible to give him a helping hand, if he utters these predilections, as we shall all be suspicious of his acting accordingly."

Private. H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to THE SAME.

1806, October 30. Ledstone Hall.—"Many thanks for your kind letter which last night's post brought me. I shall most certainly vote for the whole of your list, excepting one, which is Lord Glasgow; and that I cannot do, as Lord Glasgow made the strongest professions to me in order to obtain my vote upon the general election, and never once, when called upon to fulfil his engagements, would act as he had engaged to do. I hope you will not therefore object, supposing that he should

stand, of which I think that there is some doubt, to my giving in that single instance my vote to Lord Strathmore, to whom I have promised it; as he has been attaching himself to me personally, and from his language, means to be with us as far as one can possibly form any judgment; but rather seems to wish to put this change in his sentiments to the score of personal attention and regard to me. I was going to take up my pen the day before yesterday in order to have written to you, as well as to Wellesley, upon that most infamous and scurrilous letter of Mr. Paul, in Cobbett's paper of Saturday, which contains a mass of falsehood and misrepresentation from the very beginning to the end, had I not at the same time received a letter from McMahon stating to me what had passed between you and him upon the subject, and how satisfied you were, which I was confident you would be, of the whole being a most abominable fabrication, devoid of truth, and framed only to answer, from disappointment, desperate and contemptible views at the present moment. Pray say every thing to my friend Wellesley from me, and tell him that I should deem it both an insult to him and to me were I to think it necessary to address one single line to him in order to clear myself from such atrocious and evident calumny. Should you consider it necessary that any thing should be done about it, I will beg of you to give your advice and orders to McMahon, which shall be strictly attended to, as no step shall be taken without your consent and without your approbation.

I cannot help thinking from some little hints and some information which has reached me that the King is not quite in good humour at the dissolution; and I further learn from authority upon which I can rely, that the last desperate effort of the leader of the present factious opposition, is to be (as I foresaw and distinctly foretold some time since to you) directed at the Government through me. upon the investigation so long protracted. My information likewise tells me that this has operated very much upon the King's mind. I hope that it will be in your power to prevent its being very material, as should it be so, it must be very prejudicial to my interests and character, and from which the Government cannot be entirely exempt, besides the cruel injustice of such a line, and at such a moment. You will readily imagine my anxious uncasiness upon this distressing subject, through which I feel myself supported by the implicit reliance which I have placed in your attachment, and in your watchful care of my honour, interests, and character, all which are entirely involved in this question. Under all these feelings of distress, I naturally look to you for the earliest and best information, and I have not the smallest doubt that you will see the pressing necessity of terminating this most important affair before the meeting of Parliament. There are many other topics I wish much to talk over with you,

but which I will not trespass upon you at the present harassing moment, but reserve them till we meet. Some of them I entrusted to the communication of my friend Lord Moira, preferring that mode to the troubling you with a letter at this time. If upon any occasion, either public or private, you wish me in town, I will readily obey your summons."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, October 30. Norwich.—"It is too late I fear, but if it were possible to make Jervis retire upon a compromise, it would save two members for Yarmouth, one possibly for the county, and Lord Townshend's vote (Loftus) for Tamworth.

"You really must exert the Government interest. Sir R.

Kerrison here is doing nothing.

"An example made of Mr. Grigson would be very useful."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, October 31. Downing Street.—"I now understand that both Jervis and Anson have declined. It is provoking to think that, if they had known their own mind a little sooner, we might have secured two members for Yarmouth, as well as retained Lord Townshend's support of you in the county. But these are things one is unavoidably exposed to in the course of a general election.

"I do not know what to do about Kerrison short of removing him; and to Grigson we cannot do that, because he has long

since ceased to hold any office." Copy.

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, October 31. Phænix Park.—"I have conversed with the Chancellor and Mr. Elliot on the subject of Lord Ely's proposal of a compromise in the county of Wexford, and find from them that matters have proceeded too far to admit of our coming to an understanding with Lord Ely in this late stage of the business. The Chancellor in particular considers the Government through him, too decidedly pledged to Mr. Colclough and Mr. Carew to allow of its receding. I cannot help thinking that if Lord Ely's offer had come at an earlier period, that a compromise would on many accounts have been desirable.

"By a letter I have from Lord Spencer, of a subsequent date to your lordship's, I find that Sir Robert Wigram is

coming here, and that I am likely to see him.

"I very much regret to find that some confusion is likely to arise in Westminster from the unaccountable offence taken by the Duke of Northumberland, and have written to my agent to give all possible support to Sheridan and Sir Samuel Hood."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, October 31. Dublin Castle.—"I have been told that Lord Delvin perseveres in his views on the County of Westmeath, and states himself to have the support of government. Smith and Rochfort have, as far as I am informed, the best interest, and the latter has assured the Chancellor of their friendly disposition towards the present Administration. Under these circumstances, and in consequence of the fcw lines I received from you in answer to my note from Salt Hill, I am afraid I have done enough to pledge us to the late members. As Lord Delvin is a connexion of Lord Buckingham's, I cannot help feeling considerable anxiety on this subject, and hope you will have the goodness to send me some explanation on it. I have not had any communication whatever from Lord Delvin, which led me to hope he had abandoned his intention of offering himself."

Postscript.—"George Walpole is arrived here to offer him self for Dungarvan. As the Lord Lieutenant has had a letter from Lord George Cavendish pressing, on the part of the Duke of Devonshire, for the support of Government in that borough Walpole must, I suppose, have what assistance we can give

him."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, October 31. Downing Street.—"I have just received your letter. I am sorry about Lord Ely; but I see no remedy.

"I have no means of doing anything with Dupré, who is

hostile to us both in politics and in the county.

"I never have received any application from the Cootes; nor, as I perceive, has any such been yet made to you. Under these circumstances, and with the great doubt that hangs over their success, I do not feel much disposed to countenance them in opposing Pole, who, I should think, is not by any meansa decided encmy.

"I do not know how to help about an Irish lawyer, but I should think the suggestion as to the mode of paying Hawthorn rather doubtful. When next we appoint an Attorney or Solicitor, we must make our stipulations with them accordingly." Copy.

THE SAME to the MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM.

1806, October 31. London.—"I have never sufficiently thanked you for the paper you sent me on the subject of the attack on Spanish America, and the precision and distinctness

of which has really been invaluable to me.

"I now send you a project on this subject, on which I earnestly wish for your opinion with the least possible delay. The fact on which it is founded is this. Including Achmuty's force of 3,000 men, and what has sailed at different times from

the Cape and St. Helena, there will be at Buenos Ayres 5,500 men. Add the 9th Dragoons, now embarked for the same place, 700 men; and the whole may be put at above 6,000 men. As this force will, of course, have taken Montevideo, I reckon 3,000 men, with the possession of that fortress, sufficient to maintain themselves there. The garrison of the Cape is also, even after the sailing of these troops for Buenos Ayres, full 4,500 strong, being at least 1,000 more than is necessary.

"Now, working on these data, No. 1, of the enclosed requires only the sending out one regiment of infantry to Madras to replace that which goes from thence on the service proposed; and the shipping arrangements for the transport of this regiment out to India, and of the 4,000 men from Madras onwards.

are already made, and the orders go out to-morrow.

"No. 2 supposes us to have 3,000 or even 3,500 at Buenos Ayres, a like number at the Cape, and all the rest to go on to India. From Buenos Ayres to the Cape they will go in their own transports, which brought them from the Cape to Buenos Ayres. At the Cape they will be to find 50 and 60 gun ships, in sufficient number for their future transport.

"The whole force and transport of No. 3 is therefore thus

provided for.

"That of No. 4 requires nothing more than the sending out 2,000 Europeans from hence next autumn, and transports for 7,000 men; which, with so much time before us, are both

easily managed here.

"If this force, large as it is—comparatively with the resources of Spain in America—shall yet be deemed insufficient, a re-inforcement of 5,000 sepoys from Bengal might sail in July, and follow the track of the other. Indiamen can—for I have ascertained the point—be easily taken up here for their transport; and these, being armed, are their own convoy; and being big-bellied, will each carry 500 men at least, and with them as much water and rice as that number of men can consume.

"Here is the rough outline of the plan; pray consider it fully, and suggest all you think material in objection, and in

improvement." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, November 1. Dublin Castle.—"Mr. Brooke is, I find, determined to offer himself for Fermanagh. The Chancellor seems much interested about him, and thinks he will succeed. We must support Lord Enniskillen, and therefore if we assist Mr. Brooke, our exertions will be directed against General Archdall, to whom, so far as the Government on this side of the water is concerned, no engagement has been made. I shall be obliged to you, however, to inform me whether any assurance was given him in England; and also whether, if we should be perfectly unpledged, you will approve of our going with Brooke. He is, I understand, a man of considerable property and respectable character."

Postscript.—" Lord Ely was with me yesterday, and offered to purchase a seat for Colclough if he would relinquish his views on the county. I made the proposition to the latter through the Chancellor, but it has been declined. I suppose Lord Ely feels his prospect of success much diminished by Sir F. Flood's declaration against him."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, November 1. Eden Farm.—"I have just heard from Mr. Eden that, at the close of yesterday's polling for Woodstock, Mr. Annesley handsomely declined giving any further trouble. He had, however, obliged us to send down all non-resident votes. Sir H. Dashwood and Mr. Eden were to be returned this morning, and the latter is now sitting down to a noisy dinner with his constituents till midnight."

Private. LORD HOLLAND to THE SAME.

1806, November 6.—"As I shall not meet you at the Cockpit to-day, I am unwilling to defer saying that, upon enquiry, I find General Carleton never had any quarrel whatever with the Duke of York; and that I am confirmed by several persons' report of him in the opinion that his appointment would be attended with credit to the Government, and great advantage to the public."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, November 2. Eden Farm.—"Mr. Eden is not yet returned from Oxfordshire, but as soon as he comes will be disposed to give every aid in his power in Westminster.

"It is very material that the tradesmen of all persons who deal much with London tradesmen should have circular intimation. I have made a list of above thirty who have long been employed by this family, and have sent round to them without reserve or scruple, and it would be of consequence if this were done by many.

"I shall be in town early on Tuesday, and shall stay till Wednesday evening, and shall be both mornings at Whitehall, which I mention in case you should have any commands."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, November 2. Dublin Castle.—"Marsden is going to London in the course of this week. He will be able to give you full information on the state of things here, and there are a few points of business on which I have requested him to communicate with you. He has been of great service to us, and we still continue to receive from him the most cordial assistance. I shall therefore feel myself much obliged to you for any attention you may have an opportunity of showing him.

F 27

"George Walpole's note intimating to me his intention of offering himself for Dungarvan took me quite unawares, and I almost regret having acquiesced in giving him the support of government. I have not yet had any complaint from the Beresfords, but it is not unlikely they may be offended; and I think it would have been better for government to have At the same time Lord George's letter to the been neutral. Duke was urgent, and if we had declined assisting the Devonshire interest, we should have incurred the displeasure

"Freemantle informs me that Curran has views on the city of Cork. You will not find him an acquisition in Parlia-He will, if I am not much mistaken, prove a great embarrassment to government, and I think he will fail as a debater. There is no engagement on this side of the water to prevent his standing for Cork, but I perceive the Hutchinsons

are very adverse to the idea of a new candidate."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 2. Eldon.—"The messenger found me yesterday evening, but so wore down by fatigue that it was in vain for me to attempt to do anything till this morning. You might well have expected me in London. I wish with all my heart I could go there now; but after the defeats we have sustained in different places, it seems so important to the Government, as well as to myself, that we should not be defeated here, that it will be best, I believe, even at the price of some neglect of more important concerns, that I should leave nothing untried to ensure success; and that I rather think we shall accomplish. Lady Townshend, as I told you in my last letter, was softened in her hostility; though from causes which may aggravate my vexation for not having given myself more than I did to the consideration of the subject of her application. Kerrison, I believe, will now do all that he can. I hope only that he has been put right on the subject of the Norwich election, in which I should be sorry to have it happen that my opponent Fellowes or Smith was supplanted by my friend Patteson. So much for elections.
"Now for what is more improtant matter that makes the

subject of your letter.

"I wish with all my heart that I could have been in town to discuss more the particulars of the plan with which my opinion does not thoroughly go; though I have not enough considered or informed myself of the question to make my objections, even in my own opinion perhaps, of considerable weight. I do not, in the first place, see the great advantage of introducing the Manillas into the plan. As a conquest in itself it is, I apprehend, but of little value; and I should doubt whether, as a place of refreshment, it was worth the time and force that must be employed for the reduction of it.

"But the part of the plan which might most be doubted is that of sending the troops across the Atlantic from Buenos Ayres. There are great difficulties about these troops at any rate from the want of proper transports. Many of the transports now at Buenos Ayres, or going there, are not coppered; nor of a description otherwise to qualify them either for the going round Cape Horn, or for the easier but longer voyage of circumnavigation by the Manillas. The circumnavigation, even in a higher latitude, is more than they would be equal to; and, at all events, ships not coppered will not stand service in those seas on account of the worm. There must be a change of transports therefore; and, in that case, the better passage from Buenos Ayres (the time of year suiting) must, I think, be round Cape Horn. The passage round Cape Horn from Buenos Ayres for a single ship, is not, as I recollect, more than five or six weeks. The whole passage to Panama could not be twice as much. From Buenos Ayres to Panama by the Manillas must be, I know not what. For the going across the line to the Manillas, as I think is the case, besides the great increase of distance, carries them out of the course of those winds which recommended so much to me the eastern passage from hence as compared with the western. In the present ships the thing is impracticable; and in others wholly, I conceive, unadvisable. Nor do I see the purpose of it. If the Manillas cannot be reduced without so great a force, the attempt is not worth making. If it can, it can never be desirable to drag this force from Buenos Ayres all across the Atlantic merely for the sake of a rendezvous.

"What I should recommend would be that a part only of the force proposed to be taken from Buenos Ayres should be sent on the intended expedition; that they should go round Cape Horn in ships that must be supplied from here; and that the remainder, in the ships now there, should either be

restored to the Cape, or brought home.

"The troops last furnished from the Cape will probably have been sent back upon the arrival of the force under Achmuty, so that you must not calculate upon finding at Beunos Ayres the whole of the force that has at different times been sent there; nor, if you did, would it amount, as I conceive, to what you lay it at, namely 6,000 men.

"The force thus to be sent, say 1,500 or 2,000, might serve

as a reinforcement to Craufurd; and with the 4,000, partly Europeans and partly sepoys, which you suppose to go from the Manillas, would make quite as much as would be necessary

in those seas.

"I am in fact not enough acquainted with all that ought to enter into a plan for the reduction of Mexico to know what proportion the force on the east ought to bear to that on the west; nor which ought to be the principal attack and which the feint. By the plan of sending Sir A. Wellesley to India, you seem to consider the western attack as the principal.

"At all events I should think that the force which I have above supposed, namely a mixed force of 4,000 from the Manillas, 2,000 or 1,500 sent by Cape Horn from Buenos Ayres, and the 3,500 under Craufurd, even after some reduction of their numbers by accidents and a garrison perhaps left in Chili, would be sufficient. More certainly would do no harm; but we must consider what may now come upon us at home; and, therefore, if more were thought to be wanted for operations on the western coast of America, I should be disposed to make up the deficiency in sepoys. It may very possibly happen also that so many as 3,000 may not be wanted for Buenos Ayres.

"The result according to my plan would be that, supposing an attack on Mexico resolved upon, the only steps to be taken from India would be the embarkation of a mixed force of Europeans and sepoys of about 4,000 men; and the only steps from hence the sending a number of coppered transports for the conveyance round Cape Horn of about 2,000 men, with the proper orders to Craufurd for proceeding higher up the coast, or rather (as the east course is now, I understand, likely to be adopted for the armament with him) for making the coast higher up, that is more to the northward, and doing in fact

what I wished him to have done originally.

"You will do well, I think, to consider this, and particularly the question of sending the troops from Buenos Ayres to the Manillas. The Manillas I should be disposed to leave out altogether; but, at all events, I should leave them to be

taken by the troops sent from India.

"In respect to transports we have a large supply, I apprehend, as Sir G. Shee, in a letter some days ago, told me of the return of about 30 in consequence of an order sent out some four or five months since to the Mediterranean. Enough would otherwise easily be collected, before they could be wanted.

"Whatever is finally determined will be executed by Sir George Shee as well in my absence as if I were upon the spot. Perhaps too, if I were present, I could suggest nothing but

what I have done.

"The destination of Craufurd's armament being eastward, that is if the passage is to be to the eastward, Calloa has a further preference over Valparaiso, and a further still with a view to the operations now in question.

"Have any steps been taken, or thought for, for giving assistance to Miranda?

"What an idea of the effects of this running after elections, that I have delayed till now to speak of this."

EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 2. Wentworth.—"The county is settled; Lascelles has withdrawn. An extraordinary event has happened at Hull. Denison is chosen and Thornton thrown out; it happened without my interference, or even knowledge, and I venture to say without Denison's; but the populace would have a third man, and Denison as a favourite of theirs was put up."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, November 3. Dropmore.—"Lord Delvin has had no communication with me, and I have told Lord B[uckingha]m

that government supports the present members.

"When Walpole applied to me for government support at Dungarvan I referred him wholly to you, and you best know what has passed with the Beresfords; but I rather think a neutrality would be best till it appears where the interest at Dungarvan really is. If however, the Lord Lieutenant is pledged on this subject, of course nothing more remains to be said upon it, and I have by no means a decided opinion upon it." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 3. Eldon.—"As the Yarmouth election is very likely to be set aside for treating, it may be as well to have in view the possibility of an arrangement with the Townshend family; and the knowledge that such an arrangement is in any degree in view may have its effect at Rainham, where still much is wanting."

Postscript.—"You have not forgot what we said about Sir F. Vincent's seat."

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to THE SAME.

1806, November 3. Wentworth.—"There being a vacancy at the Board of Taxes, let me beg it for Colonel Baldwin.

"The disasters in Germany, I find, exceed even the French reports; these are only preparatory to the destruction even of the Russian empire; there is an end of the old world, we must look to the new."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to THE SAME.

1806, November 3.—" I hear so bad an account of Sheridan's cause that I think it is highly probable the tailor will beat him, if very great exertion be not made. Any candidate of a different stamp would certainly secure the election. But the general voice is most undoubtedly adverse to Sheridan; between whom and Paull little difference of character is felt. I conclude that you have the best information on these points; but if mine be not very incorrect, Paull will certainly represent Westminster, unless a most vigorous effort be made immediately.

"I wish you could start a fourth candidate of character tomorrow. Surely such an object as Westminster ought not to

be sacrificed to the vanity of any man."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, November 4. Downing Street.—"I received your grace's letter this morning and am satisfied that nothing could be done about Lord Ely in the present state of that business.

"Will you excuse me if I take the liberty of troubling you on another subject. Tierney has been obliged to decline the contest at Southwark, and, unless a seat can be provided for him, will consequently be out of Parliament. It has occurred to me that during Adair's absence at Vienna his seat is wholly useless to him, and Government lose the benefit of his vote. If under these circumstances it suited your arrangements to let Tierney occupy his place, it would relieve me from a very great embarrassment, as I had not in any manner calculated on the chance of Tierney's failure, believing, as he did, that the contest would lay wholly between the other two. I have therefore ventured to lay this idea before you just as it occurs to me; but if it should interfere with any other plans which you prefer, I must endeavour to do the best I can, to find some other mode of bringing him in.

"I have just heard of the probability of a contest in Surrey. I have written to Lord Onslow to request his support for Lord William Russell, and I need not add that every exertion in

my power shall immediately be made." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, November 4. Dublin Castle.—" Parnell states that he believes Lord Portarlington will let us have his seat for 4,000l. British, provided he is given to understand that he is to have the support of government for the representative peerage on the second vacancy after Lord Charlemont's election. If you approve of my closing with this proposal, I shall thank you to let me be informed, without delay, of the name of the person you wish to be returned, and at what bankers the money is to be lodged.

"From Parnell's description of the different interests in the Queen's County, I conceive Coote's success would be so dubious, that I shall advise Lord Castlecoote to desist from the attempt; and I do not expect to find much difficulty in disuading him from persevering in so unpromising an

"There is a great embarrassment about the county of Louth. Lord Jocelyn is only nineteen, and by the law on this side of the water, the return of a minor cannot be sustained, if it is challenged. Mr. Balfour, a gentleman of considerable property, will, it is apprehended, avail himself of this advantage, and become a candidate against Lord Jocelyn. Under these circumstances Lord Roden wishes his brother, Mr. John Jocelyn, may be permitted to resign his seat at the Board of Customs with the view of representing Louth till Lord Jocelyn comes of age; but that Mr. Jocelyn may not be deprived of the emoluments of his office, Lord Roden solicits that Mr. Metye (his deputy in the Auditor's office) may be appointed a Commissioner in trust for Mr. Jocelyn. Such an arrangement, in the very commencement of our reform in the revenue departments, seems both to the Lord Lieutenant and me quite inadmissible. The Chancellor too is entirely of this opinion, and we think you will be in the same sentiment.

"Pray do not let us totally despair of having an Irish lawyer in Parliament. It is, as Marsden, who sails for England to-night, will explain to you, of the utmost importance, that Newport should have legal assistance in the House."

Postscript.—"I learn from Parnell that Tyrwhit has had some negotiation with Lord Portarlington about his seat."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, November 4. Near Lynn.—"I must again come upon the subject of elections; and not the less so because within the last four and twenty hours our stock has rather fallen.

"In the parish of Methwold, near this place, there are about forty voters, every one of whom, with hardly an exception, have been engaged against us, that is as single votes for Mr. Wodehouse, under the influence of the clergymen.

"As this influence arises, in part at least, from the threat of taking the tithes in kind, it will be perfectly fair to counteract it, if possible, by influence not so properly of a different kind as operating in a different direction, and founded on the circumstance of Methwold being altogether crown land, the leases of which are only about to be let.

"What is desirable is, therefore, not that letters should be written to these people, which would be of no effect, but that a man should be sent down from the proper Office, using the influence more or less which would be used by any other landlord, and which is quite as good as that which, there is reason to think, makes the greater part of the influence now

possessed by the clergymen.

"I wrote to Fordyce about this yesterday, stating the general fact, but am not sure that he was the proper person to be applied to, nor that he might be disposed to act with as much zeal as he would upon a similar intimation from Lord Melville respecting a borough in Scotland. The person sent down need do little more, probably, than talk of the leases, and canvass the voters; the object of the canvass too being not to make them violate any promise which they have bona fide given, but to neutralize them, by making them give their second votes for me. I say me expressly, because such is the footing on which Coke not only consents but is eager to carry on our canvass. A second vote for Coke is, however, not without its use, as it enlarges the fund out of which I am

supplied, and may quiet a jealousy which his friends may feel, though he himself is a stranger to it, of not seeing him high enough on the poll. Though a vote thus neutralized between Mr. Wodehouse and me might in one view as well, or better, stay at home, the agent must be cautioned not to propose that condition, except in the case of persons who, from age or infirmity, would prefer that course. In general, we take at our expense those who vote for Wodehouse and Windham, but leave to Mr. Wodehouse those who vote for Wodehouse and Coke.

"The agent who comes down for this purpose should set off without delay, as the election will begin on Thursday 13th, and these voters may possibly be among the first sent up. His very appearance, with only a general intimation of the wishes of Government standing in the place of landlord to these people, would, in conjunction with agents of ours, or even without that aid, effect probably all that was necessary.

"Pray put this without delay into the hands of Mr. Free-mantle; and at the same time suggest the utility of a letter to Mr. Whisk the head Commissioner of Exeise, whose brother, a elergyman here, has been doing us all the mischief he ean. Mr. Howard, I am afraid, you have been able to do nothing with. His activity through an agent of his, a Mr. Bellamy, has not at all relaxed.

"Oakes, the Receiver of Suffolk, I likewise mentioned to you. I have written to him, but a letter, if not already sent, should come from Mr. Freemantle. Letters to the Fishers and others at Yarmouth would likewise be serviceable, hinting the necessity of making up in the county for what they have done in the city."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, November 5. Downing Street.—"Archdall has always supported us, and I do not think it possible for Government to turn against him. What I should recommend is that Lord Enniskillen should be supported, and that we should be neutral between the other two; but you will do what you think best. You will hear that Lord Ponsonby is dead."

Postscript.—"We are in a scrape at Westminster; but I

still think we shall get through it." Copy.

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 5. Phænix Park.—" Before I left England I mentioned to Mr. Fox my wish that Robert Foote Esquire, of Charlton Place, Kent, who married my first cousin Miss Keppel, might at a proper opportunity be recommended to the King as a fit person to be ereated a baronet of the United Kingdom. Some difficulties, I believe, arose, at that period from the numerous candidates for the baronetage; and I now beg leave to renew, through your lordship, to his Majesty's ministers,

my wishes in favour of Mr. Foote. At the same time if any obstacles of which I am not aware should stand in the way of this request, I beg to be understood as by no means desirous of pressing it."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, November 5. Downing Street.—"I received the enclosed letter last night, Sir Francis Vincent confirms the promise, what is to be said about it?"

Enclosure.

W. Wolstenholme to Viscount Howick.

Ibbotson's Hotel, Vere Street.—"I beg leave to address you as the successor of Mr. Fox in office, as well as presuming to hope from the acquaintance I have the honour of, on the

the subject of a baronetage promised me by Mr. Fox.

"Soon after Mr. Fox came into office he was so kind to promise me, in the first instance, a baronetage which had also been promised me 23 years ago, and I am assured by Sir Francis Vincent my name was accordingly included in a list of ten persons in Lord Grenville's hands. On the first list of five coming out, I again waited on Mr. Fox, who informed me the list in which my name was included was thought too large, and was therefore by agreement cut in half; but that it would be done shortly, and that I might depend on it. Nothing doubting, I therefore requested to change my name from Breton to Wolstenholme, being my mother's, who was the last heiress of an old baronet's family of that name. This was accordingly done immediately, and concluding the other as good as done, I paid all the fees of Office.

"My reason for now troubling your lordship is that, having seen a list of the other five baronets mentioned to be deferred by Mr. Fox, to my great surprise I find my name after all not included. For the exactness of this statement I

beg to refer to Sir Francis Vincent.

"And I request the favour of your lordship, if 35 years invariable attachment to Mr. Fox and his friends allow me to take that liberty, that you would do me the honour to confer with Lord Grenville on the subject, and give me candidly an answer whether I may expect Mr. Fox's promise to be fulfilled by adding my name to this list."

LORD GRENVILLE to THE SAME.

1806, November 5. Downing Street.—"A part of the statement you have sent me is undoubtedly true. Mr. Wolstenholme was included in the first list of baronets of which he speaks, but which was so large that it was utterly impossible to carry it into the King. Five or six names were therefore selected from it by Fox himself, every name upon that list

being recommended either by the Prince of Wales, by Lord Moira, or by Fox. Six names have now been carried in; one only was a personal engagement of Pitt's, which I was induced upon a statement of the case to confirm; two are professional which you recommended; one, General Nugent, although a near connection of mine, had been promised in the former government, at the Duke of York's desire, and as a compensation for the red ribbon which he was thought by the Duke of York to have earned by his services, but which the King objected to give him on account of his birth. And the two others were recommendations, one of the Prince of Wales who urged it with no common earnestness, and had, I fear, actually committed himself by a written promise on the subject; and the other of the Duke of Devonshire, which had been in the original list, and which Lord Spencer told me was particularly desirable to the Duke just now, because of some connection it had with the town or county of Derby, I forget which.

"I have given you the trouble of reading this long statement, because you will see that it is not my fault if Mr. Wolstenholme has been necessarily omitted in this batch of baronets.

"I certainly never knew, nor understood, that any positive promise was given to any of those who were postponed in the first list, that they should be included in the second; nor should I have wished to give such a promise, knowing how one is

hampered by them as in the present instance.

"But, under the peculiar circumstances of this case, I have no objection now to engage myself that I will positively include Mr. Wolstenholme's name in the next recommendation; but I fear it is impossible to add him to this, which, though I have hitherto spoken of it as the second, is in fact the third list I have had to propose to the King since February." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT HOWICK.

1806, November 5.—" I send you a letter from D'Entragues. As the probability is that you will not be able to read it, I just mention that it is to inform you that Dumourier is preparing to set out, taking his mistress with him; which D'Entragues observes, and I think justly enough, is not an equipage well suited either in appearance or reality to such a mission as he is to perform." Copy.

THE SAME to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, November 5. Downing Street.—"I am afraid it is impossible for me to comply with your wishes about Colonel Baldwin, being under an engagement which must unavoidably have the preference.

"I rejoice in the quiet termination of Yorkshire. The event at Hull has opened a contest in Surrey which will be troublesome to Lord William Russell, to say the least. You

will see what a strange state we are in at Westminster. I have however, I hope, this day prevailed upon Sheridan's and Hood's committees to join; and with this, and proper exertions, I entertain little doubt of ultimate success. It is however material that you should give directions for all your interest to be exerted in their support." Copy.

Secret. EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 6. Wentworth.—"The Prince having now been here some days, I have the satisfaction of making a good report of the state of his health; and I do it, not merely upon my own observation, but upon the opinion of Mr. Walker, formerly his apothecary in London, and thoroughly acquainted with his constitution. After seeing the Prince at various times since he has been in the north, and after very minute enquiries, Walker is of opinion that there is nothing amiss of any importance. He is grown wonderfully abstemious both in eating and drinking, which Walker wishes he may continue to be, rather than that he should be urged to take more nourishment and wine. He is then managing his body well. I wish he had his mind in as good discipline, but it is in a wonderful degree of agitation on a variety of subjects. The events on the Continent, Southwark and Westminster elections, with Sir F. Burdett's and Paul's speeches, and matters of the same nature; all these things, one succeeding the other, keep his mind in a state of perpetual agitation, so that it gets not one moment's repose. To most of these however there will soon be an end, and it is to be hoped they will be forgotten; and against the others that he will get

"But there is still one thing that, I perceive, preys upon his mind more than all the rest; it is the business of the Princess of Wales; his anxiety to have it brought to a conclusion is extreme, but particularly to have it so, before the meeting of Parliament. He is impressed with a decided opinion that the business will be brought before Parliament, as a measure of Opposition; that it should be so seems his wish, rather than his fear; but the ground of his anxiety is, lest there should be a plea, apparently justifiable, for Opposition making this a subject of discussion in Parliament. The Prince conceives this would be the case, if the business remains till the meeting in its present unsettled state. The matter in question, the enquiry instituted, have become subjects of such publicity, that without the result being made as public, there will rest upon him the odium of being supposed to have brought charges without foundation, originating in nothing but injustice, hatred, and malice. Considered in this way by the public, Opposition will be justified in public opinion for bringing under discussion the subject, from the pretended desire of rescuing an innocent, injured, helpless woman from the disgrace attendant upon charges however ill-founded. It is therefore not simply from the desire of giving publicity to the facts, and the means of rescuing him from public odium, but with a view to prevent the factious dispositions of Opposition having the advantage of such a cloak to their real motives, that he is continually expressing the utmost anxiety that the business should not be left unsettled till the meeting of Parliament. Surely there is much in what he feels on this particular point; a matter of this nature left undecided may well be made a subject of enquiry; but if decided, the substance of the decision can then alone be a ground of discussion, and not the state in which the subject stands. I submit these things for your consideration, repeating again, how heavily the subject weighs upon his mind."

Private. VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 6. Stratton Street.—"I am much obliged to you for your explanation about Mr. Wolstenholme, which

is quite satisfactory.

I have seen Whitbread. He is willing to do any thing in his power to secure the Westminster election, but he is discouraged by the appearances he met with to-day; and if he cannot be assured of a good understanding between Sir Samuel Hood's supporters and Sheridan's, and of a respectable and active committee, he very reasonably says that he should not like to engage himself in measures which otherwise would not be likely to be either creditable or successful. He is obliged to return to-night to Southill, but will come back on Sunday and give his best assistance, if I am empowered to-morrow to tell him that matters are arranged in such a manner as to afford a hope that his efforts may be useful. I will thank you therefore to let me know, as early to-morrow as you can, whether the union that was proposed last night is to take effect; and upon what members of the committees you can depend for active exertions."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, November 6. Downing Street.—"I most heartily partake in the satisfaction which you express in Mr. Adam's resolution of coming into Parliament on the present occasion. I have the highest opinion both of his character and talents, and am persuaded that he will be of the greatest use to us in the House of Commons. He explained to me fully what had passed between Fox and him on the subject of his future views. He spoke to me with the utmost fairness and liberality on the subject, and I flatter myself he was not ill-satisfied with what I said to him upon it; to which I will only add, that if it were necessary to find a fresh motive for my good wishes to him, they would undoubtedly be still

strengthened in a very great degree by the interest which I know you take in what concerns him." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806, November 6. Dublin Castle.—"I have succeeded in disuading Lord Castlecoote from persevering in his views on the Queen's County. He seems to think he should have had a very strong and powerful support; but from the best information I have been able to procure, I am convinced his success would have been very uncertain, and the contest most expensive both to himself and Parnell. He is desirous, however, of bringing his son into Parliament at a *cheap* rate, and wishes me to apply to you to endeavour to obtain a seat for him for 3,000l. I told him I should in consequence of his solicitation write to you on the subject, but that I could not hold out to him much hope of a favourable answer.

"I am anxious to hear from you in respect to Westmeath.

"There will be no contest in the King's County.

"The College election is this moment over, and I find Knox has been returned by a majority of two votes. Government took no part, as both the candidates were hostile.

"It is not yet settled whether Curran is to stand for Cork."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, November 7. Office for Trade.—"By some mistake your note of Wednesday was not brought to Palace Yard till

vesterday evening.

"I shall be here till one, when I must meet the American Commissioners. Our negotiation with them is at a stand-still and I am grieved at it; for, in the present state of the world, it appears to me that even a colourable reconciliation and friendship with the United States would be of an importance infinitely outweighing the objections to the article in question, after such amendments as might have been admitted."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, November 7. Downing Street.—"Sir Arthur Wellesley is the person I would name for P[or]tarlington, willingly accepting P[ort]a[rlington]'s offer. Freemantle will write to you about the details.

"The proposal respecting Jocelyn is utterly inadmissible.
"There is, I fear, no hope of our finding a gratis seat for an

"There is, I fear, no hope of our finding a grans seat for an Irish lawyer. We have one or two friends thrown upon us quite unexpectedly; though, on the whole, I think things have not gone ill except in this horrible Westminster election, where Sheridan has involved himself and us in a sea of trouble.

"I wrote to the Duke to beg if possible a seat from him for Tierney. I trust Lord William's election for Surrey will make this practicable; we shall be greatly distressed without it. I suppose Freemantle explained to you that the recommendation of him for the last Irish seat you wrote about was merely as a temporary arrangement till a proper person could be found. He of course cannot be at further expense than he has already incurred in the borough.

"It must be distinctly explained that Sir Arthur Wellesley is to have the power of naming his successor as often as there may be a vacancy during the Parliament, as he is likely to

be employed on foreign and distant service.

Postscript.—"Since I wrote the above, I find Wellesley has already been named to you for another seat; and I must therefore refer you to Freemantle, who will write to you to-day for another name." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to the MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM.

1806, November 7. London.—"The Westminster election is doomed to be the plague of all governments. Paull had got too far a-head to make it possible—in the opinion of those who best understand the subject—to start a fresh candidate with any hope of success. Nothing was therefore left but to endeavour to unite Sheridan's and Hood's interests; and you will see by the papers how imperfectly, and with how ill a grace, this has been done.

"I confess I do not now entertain much hope of success; and besides this, the expense is beginning to be distressing to Hood, and we must call upon some of our friends for assistance,

which is a most unpleasant necessity.

"Lord Duncannon's corps is in Marybone, and he himself quite unfit for such a scene, nor has he any means of supporting the expense. Sheridan takes his own expense upon himself, but my distress is about Hood.

"Many thanks for Dingwall. It is of great importance, but, I fear, not quite enough to turn the election, as was once

thought. Both parties are however sanguine.

"In general, the elections have gone as well as I expected; in some instances better; and even when our candidates have failed, it has generally happened that the persons chosen are also friendly." Copy.

VISCOUNT HOWICK to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 7. Stratton Street.—"I have not heard of anybody being proposed for the city of Derry by Colonel Ponsonby, but I do not think it improbable they may have proposed Alderman Leckey; with a view to assist their interest in the county. I know it had been desired both by poor Lord Ponsonby and the Chancellor. Alderman Leckey is a very respectable man, and once before represented the city.

"If there is an engagement it must be kept, but Sir George Hill is a sad fellow, and not to be counted upon for a moment."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD FITZWILLIAM.

1806, November 8. Downing Street.—"Your report of the Prince gave me great satisfaction, especially as it shews that the improvement of his health has not hitherto abated that caution and temperance which I apprehend to be so

necessary for him.

"I cannot wonder that this business of the Princess preys upon his mind; nor is it unreasonable that he should be impatient for its conclusion. But, on the other hand, he should consider that nothing but the most prudent and guarded conduct can possibly render that conclusion satisfactory to the public, or in any manner useful to remove the great injustice that has been done him. And if we take a false step in the business, the prejudice that will result from it

must injure him as well as ourselves.

"We have received the Princess's defence. It is a folio volume, of no small size and closely written. The King's order was that a copy should be made of it, and the original returned to him. The consequence of this has been that it was not till three days ago that I received it, and not sooner than yesterday afternoon that I had finished reading it for the first time; and that without referring to the evidence and previous declarations to which it sends one at every turn. Ît is now gone from me into circulation, and must be read and studied by every member of our large Cabinet before we can even meet to converse about it.

"Nor when we do so is the line to be taken upon it by any means clear from difficulties. The paper is artful, though, in my judgement, in some parts of it highly unsuited to the occasion, and to the station of the Princess in whose name it is drawn. There can be no doubt that it is written for the express purpose of publication, and it will therefore be a matter of the utmost importance to decide correctly what line is

to be taken upon it.

"I am confident that, in any case, there will be an attempt to draw the matter into Parliamentary discussion. Nor do I see much difference in this respect whether the matter be still depending or not. Indeed I think in the former case we should have one additional argument against a Parliamentary discussion of it, which would not apply in the latter case.

"I do not, however, for this or any other reason think delay advisable; but we must proceed, if possible, with the full concurrence of all our colleagues; and we must take care that we do what is in itself right and unexceptionable, lest we should make more haste than good speed. Copy.

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, November 8. Phænix Park.—"You may rely on my giving my immediate attention to the means of securing a seat in Parliament for Tierney, though, if my brother should unexpectedly be defeated in Surrey, I may find myself much embarrassed. At all events, however, your lordship shall have a positive answer on the subject before the meeting of Parliament."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, November 8. Downing Street.—"Mr. Fox had mentioned Mr. Foote's name to me among the persons whom he wished to be recommended for baronets. But when the list was to be carried in to the King we found it too large to be with propriety adopted all at once. He therefore (as the list consisted entirely of his friends, and those of the Prince of Wales and Lord Moira) made a selection, and left the rest for some subsequent opportunity.

"I have now been under the necessity of submitting to the King three professional creations of baronets, and one which was a personal promise of Mr. Pitt's, but which, as I knew it to be given as the reward of public service, I thought myself

bound to confirm.

"To these four, two only could now be added, and the preference was given to a recommendation of the Prince's, about which he was particularly anxious, and had indeed, as I understood, been led to pledge himself more deeply than was perhaps to be wished; and to one of the Duke of Devonshire's, which Lord Spencer represented to me as peculiarly interesting to him at this time on account of some connection it had with Derby or Derbyshire, I forget which.

"I have mentioned these particulars to explain to you the only reasons which could have induced me to postpone a compliance with your recommendation of which I had a memorandum, and I trust they will be satisfactory to you.

"Whenever another list is proposed, Mr. Foote shall certainly be included in it; but some interval must unavoidably elapse, as three lists have been recommended since February last." Copy.

Private. W. Elliot to Lord Grenville.

1806. November 8. Dublin Castle.—"I am told that a candidate has started under the protection of Colonel Ponsonby for the City of Derry. To the best of my recollection it was understood between you and Lord Waterford that Sir George Hill was to have the support of Government.

"The election of the City of Dublin begins on Tuesday. We shall, I fear, be able to carry only one of our candidates,

but I flatter myself it will be Grattan.

"Lord Hutchinson has just been with me, and tells me he is going to the Prussian Army. This looks as if you did not entirely despair of the Prussian resources."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, November 10. Eden Farm.—"I go to town at an early hour to-morrow, and am to meet the Russian merchants at a quarter before eleven, relative to the renewal of their treaty which is expiring. On looking into it, and into the correspondence respecting it, I am not aware of any material alterations that we can wish to propose; but as the treaty was made in 1797 by Sir Charles Whitworth under your instructions, you may possibly recollect if there were any particulars that you would now wish to be adverted to. Consul —— informed me before he left England that the factory was well satisfied with the articles in the present form.

"At twelve o'clock I am to go with Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Fawkener to the West India Dock, on some considerations which the directors wish to explain to us on the spot. I shall dine and sleep at Mr. Wedderburne's, Upper Grosvenor Street, and shall be in Whitehall, or at Lord Howick's Office

on Wednesday till about a quarter past two.

"Mr. Eden has done everything in his power relative to the Westminster election, and is in town till Wednesday evening for the purpose."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, November 10. Downing Street.—"I am very glad to hear that there is to be no contest for the Queen's County. I am afraid what you mention as to Coote is quite impracticable.

"About Westmeath I have written fully to you.

"I think the spirit of what has passed about Derry certainly is that Lord Waterford should be supported at Derry." Copy.

Sir Arthur Wellesley to [Lord Grenville].

1806, November 14. Thomas's Hotel, Berkeley Square.—
"I have just received an order to join the troops at Deal, which will oblige me to go out of town to-morrow. But I am prepared with all the information to draw out the paper which I told you I should send you; and if you should be desirous to converse with me upon it afterwards, I can return to town.

"I have seen Mr. Frazer twice, and have received a letter from him on the subject of his views, since I last saw your lordship. He expressed a wish to be made commissary of the army; and when I had explained to him that the commissaries were now a distinct branch of the service, into which no person could be introduced without a breach of rule, he desired to be appointed a deputy-commissary, and to be sent to Guernsey or Jersey to wait till the period in which his services would be required; when he should expect to be appointed commissary. If this could not be done for him, he desired to be appointed inspector of the revenues at Buenos Ayres and Monte Video: and, upon the whole, his views appear to me not to be very moderate,

"He has the share of a ship now at Falmouth in readiness to sail to the Spanish dominions in America, and he estimates his loss by not going with her at 1,500l. He is much embarrassed in his circumstances, and, at all events, cannot remain in England, which is the reason why he wishes to go to Jersey or Guernscy; and he refuses to receive such a sum as your lordship proposed to give him as compensation for his loss of time and of his business, in the service of the public.

"As he must leave England, and as his demands are not very moderate, I rather believe the best thing to be done would be to allow him to go upon his voyage. He will be back in June next: and we may then avail ourselves of his

services.

"Mr. Frazer says that he understands that the Spanish Government are embarking troops in 74 gun ships at Cadiz and Carthagena to be sent to America; and it might be desirable to have those ports strictly blockaded. I also beg to remind your lordship of the expediency of sending a dispatch to Buenos Ayres to prevent Sir Samuel Auchmuty from sending the troops to the Cape."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 14. Phœnix Park.—"I feel desirous of recommending to your lordship's attention my old friend and near relation Lieutenant-General Keppel. After eight years' arduous and faithful service in the West Indies, he returned home with a constitution much impaired by the climate, and naturally looked to some public mark of the approbation of his sovereign as the best reward of his services. In this, he has hitherto been disappointed. A red ribbon was the first object of his ambition, but he was informed that there were obstacles in the way of this which were not to be surmounted; and he would now feel gratified by a military government of the second class. Ipswich and Londonderry may probably become soon vacant, and I have reason to believe that the appointment to either of these would be highly satisfactory to him. But perhaps governments of this description are wholly in the patronage of his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, and your lordship may not desire to interfere in the disposal of them. At all events it is not for me to point out the manner in which your lordship may most effectually be able to promote General Keppel's object, should you think him worthy of the attention of Government. It is not emolument that he seeks, but some testimony that his conduct at Martinique was approved of. For his zeal and fidelity in the execution of the duties entrusted to him whilst there, I may refer your lordship to Lord Sidmouth; and were Mr. Pitt living, I am persuaded the General would receive from him the most unqualified approbation of his conduct,"

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, November 14. Dublin Castle.—"You will recollect it was settled that Lord Forbes and Sir Thomas Fetherstone were to have the support of Government in the County of Longford. Lord Rosse, who is the particular friend of Sir Thomas Fetherstone, has just been here, and is under great alarm about Lord Buckingham's interest, which he has heard is likely to go with Mr. Newcomen. Perhaps you will have the goodness to ask Lord Buckingham, whether it is compatible with his arrangements to assist Sir Thomas Fetherstone as well as Lord Forbes.

"Newport is, I hope, sure of his return for Waterford.

"In Wexford, I believe, there will be no contest.

"Lord Delvin has declined standing a poll in Westmeath." Postscript.—"This day's poll for the City of Dublin:—

Gross Poll:—

The Marquis of Buckingham to The Same.

1806, November 16. Stowe.—"I send you by Charles a very valuable and interesting work, which has just fallen into my hands, in consequence of the sale of Sir Hugh Palliser's books. It is a bird's eye view of all the ports, bays, roads, rocks and shoals on the whole western coast of South America from California to Strait le Maire, in separate sheets which join on, one on the other. The author or draughtsman was the famous William Hack, who was for many years a pilot to all our adventurers in those seas, and who wrote a book on the hydrography of that part of the world, which is scarce, but which I hope to get. Sir Hugh Palliser valued this book very highly; and in many points it is very valuable as giving the general appearance of the coast, which cannot have been materially altered in many points of it; and coupled with the improved charts would give a complete coasting pilot. The book is most heartily at your service, either for your private collection, or for the public service.

"I am vexed to see the Saracen still at Falmouth, because every day is now a material drawback on the operations of next August. I hope, however, that by this time your arrangements have been made, and that she is gone. Pray advert very particularly to the advantage of ordering Murray to carry Crawford's force direct from their rendezvous through Bass's Straits to refresh at New South Wales—Port Jackson; and to exchange their less active men for the seasoned flank companies of the New South Wales corps; and to take with

them 100 convict pioneers, who will be invaluable, as seasoned to work in the sun. It is impossible to conceive the dead incumbrance of those soldiers whose constitutions shall appear to have given way in the voyage; and I am most anxious that the expedition should be cleared of them, and above all, that so soon as they shall have refreshed and got their wine on board, their course should be concealed; for I am satisfied that the enemy will not expect them to hold the eastern course. the same object I remind you that the Buenos Ayres troops must exchange their bad men at the Cape, before they go upon their ulterior destination. I have considered these various projects much since I wrote to you, and am more convinced than ever of the advantage of this course; and indeed am satisfied perfectly with every part of your plan, except that I fear you have not provided for a supply of black troops. You remember that I have often pressed you to let me talk, or to talk yourself, with Colonel Stevenson on the subject of the capture of Senegal, which would, according to his ideas, enable him—who has turned his mind very much to this object—to recruit blacks for your West India regiments, in any numbers you might want. He would require a very small naval force, and only one white regiment of 1,000 men, who would not be detained from the West Indies more than a month by this conquest, which would be afterwards garrisoned by the African corps now at Goree; and this capture would put an end to the constant annual sweep which the French frigates make of our African trade ships. I know that Stevenson is prepared with his plans for this operation, and for his subsequent recruiting, on which you must employ him, if you look—as you must—to a large operation depending upon blacks. I repeat, however, that you have never answered me whether I shall see him and talk over his plans, concealing from him the object, but adverting to the necessity of a large recruiting to complete the West India regiments; or whether you will see him, in which case I will write to him to prepare his papers; or whether you would drop this idea in toto. I must, however, observe that if such an expedition is to sail, it should be clear of the Channel by Christmas day; and they would have done their business, and might be in the West Indies by the end of March.

"My friend Captain Browne, who has been at Weymouth to vote—in right of his wife—for Lady Bath's members, has communicated to me a conversation respecting Sir J. Pulteney's support, which I have directed him to state at length to Fremantle for your information. I am delighted with Lord Althorpe's success for Northamptonshire, and not the less so for having materially assisted him. I now hope that to-morrow will secure Sheridan versus Paull, and I shall then care very little for what remains of Irish and Scotch elections; as I conclude from what I hear, that you will

have two out of three in both those quarters,'

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 18. Wentworth.—"The collectorship of customs in Tobago being vacant, permit me to recommend Charles Wightman, Esq., a gentleman of the island, and of respectable character, as I am given to understand. I state this in this manner, because, though I may be desirous of furthering the wishes of the person at whose request I make the recommendation, I must confess I feel that some corroboration of the testimony borne by my friend to the character of Mr. Wightman will be adviseable, if the office is of much importance; my friend being Lord Galway, a very good man, but one on whose observation much reliance cannot well be placed."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to THE SAME.

1806, November 18. Phænix Park.—"Mr. Ogilvie, who will have the honour to deliver this to your lordship, is desirous of an opportunity of laying before your lordship a statement of his claims on the government of Ireland, which he urged to Mr. Fox on his first coming into office, and has since submitted to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, who has expressed himself to me in terms favourable to Mr. Ogilvie.

"I confess, in the present state of the patronage of the crown in Ireland, I do not see the means of gratifying Mr. Ogilvie's wishes; but if your lordship should be able to point them out to me, I shall gladly avail myself of any suggestions I may receive from you, consistent with what is due to the many urgent claims upon us, of which I have

not failed to apprize Mr. Ogilvie."

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, November 18. Norwich.—"Our prospects have gradually improved since the date of my last letter, the day before yesterday; and though our antagonists still hold out, I think I may nearly congratulate you upon the election being secure.

"Howard has been inveterate to the last. I have just seen letters from him to some tenants, insisting that they should vote singly for Wodehouse. Why is the receivership of Middlesex to remain in hands so hostile, and why is not the landlord Government to do to him what he does to his tenants?"

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, November 19. Stratton Street.—"We left it undecided yesterday, and I certainly am to blame for the omission, whether, as Jacobi had no powers to sign a convention, we should, notwithstanding, give the order for our cruisers no longer to detain and bring in Prussian ships.

"He has been here a long time, and he proposes, as the convention cannot be signed, that an answer should be written to his note respecting our readiness to come to an agreement, upon the terms proposed in it; and, in consequence of his assurances, to issue the order as before proposed. I have told him that the situation was materially altered by his want of power, and I could not consent to this proposition without further advice. I certainly, however, allowed him to perceive my inclination to consent to it. It seems to me a matter of little consequence to us, and it might be useful in appearance. Let me know whether you approve of it, that I may prepare a note accordingly."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 22. Dublin Castle.—"I have by this mail transmitted an official application to the Lords of the Treasury for his Majesty's letter for the discontinuance of certain charges on his Majesty's Civil List Establishment of Ireland, which, from the circumstances stated in my application, are no longer payable; and also for making a new arrangement of the salaries of the under-secretaries in my chief secretary's Office, and of the salaries of the clerks in the

civil department of that Office.

"I think it proper to acquaint your lordship that this arrangement, as far as it respects the salaries of the undersecretaries, occasions but a very small additional charge upon the civil list, and is desired chiefly for the purpose of stating those salaries in a more distinct and proper manner. Each of the under-secretaries has at present one thousand nine hundred fourteen pounds and eleven pence per annum; that is, a salary of one thousand pounds a year on the civil list, and an additional allowance thereupon of four hundred and fourteen pounds and eleven pence for extra trouble during the session of Parliament; the remaining five hundred pounds a year arises in the following manner. In the year 1798 it was found necessary to appoint an assistant under-secretary for law business, to which office a salary of one thousand pounds a year upon the establishment was annexed. In 1801 Mr. Marsden who filled this office, was appointed undersecretary for the civil department. It was not thought necessary to appoint any other person as assistant for law business; but the salary remained on the establishment, and the provision of 1,414l. 0s. 11d. for each of the two undersecretarics being deemed inadequate to the labour and responsibility of those offices, it was arranged with the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant, that Mr. Marsden should continue to receive the salary of assistant for law business, paying the half thereof to the under-secretary for the military department, until a further arrangement should be made; and I have accordingly recommended that the different allowances beforementioned should be discontinued, and that a salary of two thousand pounds a year should be granted to each of the under-secretaries, which is but a very small addition to what they now receive, and is made up to that amount to avoid the placing a fractional sum upon the establishment.

"The increase of the allowances for clerks amounts in the whole to six hundred seventy seven pounds four shillings and ten pence halfpenny a year; and is to be divided between several of the clerks who have served, some of them for many years, upon small salaries.

"I hope the proposed arrangement will have your lordship's approbation, and that you will recommend it to his Majesty's

favourable consideration."

The Marquis of Buckingham to The Same.

1806, November 23. Stowe.—"I grieve to see the Saracen still at Falmouth, and Murray's ships at St. Helens. I have had a very long letter from Colonel Stevenson on his Senegal project, and upon his plan for raising there a very large force of blacks for the West Indies. I could therefore now talk to him without the slightest risk of his seeing our ulterior object; but, as you have not given me one word of answer to my request to know whether you would see him, whether I should see him, or whether you would put by all idea of Senegal, I have not written one word of answer; but I am anxious that you should let me see him on this matter, for my brother Tom lends himself much to the idea as most eligible for the sake of breaking in upon the French annual sweep of our African ships. And you will remember that they must sail by the 1st of January. Stevenson, of course, must command the enterprise, and must continue there with a garrison of the African corps to superintend and direct the whole recruiting system, for which both in integrity and in knowledge of the business he is peculiarly fit. At all events let me have a short yes or no, et liberavi animam meam.

"I have sent Whitbread 100l. for his committee, and would gladly have given more, not to bring in Sheridan, but to keep

out Paull."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, November 23. Dublin Castle.—"You will, I am sure, give me credit for feeling no small concern and anxiety in consequence of the enclosed letter from Lord Buckingham, and I rely on your kindness for the removal of the impression under which it seems to have been written. You can testify that I did not take any step without your sanction; and though I conceived Government to have been in a great degree pledged to the old members for Westmeath, yet as soon as I heard that Lord Delvin persevered in his views, and was reported to canvass with the authority of the English Government, I

declined exerting the influence of Government here until I had a fresh explanation from you on the subject; and the Lord Lieutenant even postponed answering a letter from Lord Belvedere, tendering his interest in Westmeath to Government, until I received your answer. In respect to Sir Benjamin Chapman, I remember Mr. Rochfort stating that he had considerable influence, and that he would probably be guided by the wishes of Government; but I had no channel of communication with him, and therefore never made any application to him; and indeed I should not, under any circumstances, have thought of proposing to him the retraction of an engagement. I shall write without delay to Lord Buckingham; but I must again entreat your good offices for acquitting me in his eyes of acting with very zealous political hostility towards a family for which I can never have any other sentiment than that of the warmest attachment friendship.

"Freemantle will have apprized you of the embarrassment which has occurred with regard to Sir Arthur Wellesley's seat, and which has, I fear, resulted more from trick than accident.

"Upon the whole our elections have gone on prosperously. Hitherto we have had but two reverses; the defeat of La Touche in Dublin, and that of Captain King in the County of Roscommon. I guess also that we shall be beat in Leitrim, where we now support Luke White's son (Peter La Touche having declined) against Captain Gore, who was aide de camp to Lord Hardwicke. The Chancellor seems very sanguine about the County of Derry. Walpole is returned for Dungarvan."

Private. The DUKE OF BEDFORD to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 24. Phœnix Park.—"I think it right to transmit to your lordship a copy of a letter which I have this moment received from Lord Roden on the subject of the borough of Dundalk.

"The reference to a former letter alludes to an engagement which he then stated he had entered into with Lord Stair in 1802, to return his nominee for six years. The seat will therefore be at the disposal of Government at the expiration of two years.

"The elections in Ireland are now nearly over, and I have the satisfaction to add that they have, generally speaking, been most favourable to the interests of Government."

Enclosure.

Private. The Earl of Roden to the Duke of Bedford. 1806, November 23. Tollymore Park.—"In consequence of a letter I had the honour to address to your grace on the subject of my wishes respecting the person I should hope would be returned for the borough of Dundalk (to which

correspondence I bcg leave to refer) I beg leave to state a communication I have this moment received from Lord Stair, requesting I should fulfil my engagement to him, for the period where he was concerned; which as a man of honour I am bound to do. I however feel most sincere happiness in having it in my power to state from Lord Stair's assurance, that the person he wishes to be the representative is recommended by administration to him. This in a great degree relieves my mind from the idea I had that it might be possible from the situation (as a man of honour) I was placed in, that I might not have had it in my power immediately to afford Government the assistance I so earnestly wished to do."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 25. Eden Farm.—"The entire downfall of the Continental powers makes it more than ever necessary

to advert to interests which are merely British.

"I have desired Mr. Fawkener to forward for your approbation and concurrence our draft of a minute postponing the further discussion of Captain Layman's papers till we shall have received the expected information from Trinidad. There is every reason to believe that, with the co-operation of the East India Company, the experiment may be pursued on an enlarged scale, and that it may lead to very important effects.

"I mentioned to you my apprehension that the cargo sent from Calcutta with the Chinese settlers might be subject to seizure and forfeiture. The King's Advocate and Attorney-General attended yesterday at the Office for Trade and are decidedly of that opinion. We have therefore written to Governor Haslop through Mr. Windham's Office, to the Admiral on the station through the Admiralty, and to the custom-house of Trinidad through the Treasury, to prevent, if possible, so embarrassing a result. If we should fail in preventing it, there seems to be no remedy but in Parliament.

"The Attorney-General attended also on the Sierra Leone business, and is of opinion that the colony, having been vested in a company by Act of Parliament, cannot be resigned or transferred without the concurrence of Parliament. We are accordingly preparing a Bill which is also to give to the corporation a period of five or seven years merely to settle their affairs. The proprietors, who have repeatedly attended, acquiesce in this arrangement. It will next be necessary to settle some economical plan and establishment for the colony.

"Some merchants are applying for licenses to send in neutral ships cargoes of British manufactures to the French and Spanish islands, and to bring back for exportation the produce of those islands. We are legally empowered to grant such licenses, and the measure would be expedient for the benefit of our manufactures, and for the drawing to ourselves an advantage which will otherwise go to the United States. But

it may be objected that such an operation tends to give to the enemies' colonies all the enjoyments of peace; and also, that it would promote the export of foreign sugars to the continent of Europe to the disadvantage of our planters and merchants. Still I incline to the refusal with much reluctance. Might we not at least offer licences to neutral vessels to carry our manufactures to the French and Spanish islands, but not to bring back produce? It is a great and difficult question.

"I have also received applications for licenses to send British manufactures to Mauritius. But I conceive that we are restrained as to this point by the charter of the East India Company. In this matter also we sacrifice our own

interests to the interests of the United States.

"The merchants trading to Leghorn are representing in the most positive terms that their commerce with that port is safe and undisturbed; that there is not in the place any French garrison or French troops; and that it is a great and unnecessary interruption to commerce to consider Leghorn as in a state of war.

"What shall we do in these matters? I feel strongly that in the actual predicament of Europe, the extension of our commerce is become the most efficient measure of war.

"I shall be in town very early on Thursday, and probably

(as yesterday) shall be detained till sunset.

"It has occurred to me that I can word an article in the proposed American treaty so as to obviate any recurrence to the foolish and teasing measure of non-importation; and I have no doubt that we can induce the American ministers to accept it."

Private. MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 25. Oxford Street.—"We are in great alarm respecting Arthur's seat; it must be expected that some proceeding will occur very early, from which it might be very injurious that he should be absent. Pray have the good-

ness to inquire, and to secure him if possible.

"It occurs to me to mention to you that he is highly pleased with the discussions which have passed between you respecting the proposed expedition; and that on all occasions he will be anxious to execute your orders. From him no objection will arise against the plan, and if it should be prosecuted he would prefer that employment to all others; but if (from any cause not originating with him) the proposed expedition should be relinquished, he would be very happy to command in chief in India, supposing that command to be open. He is certainly better qualified for the command in India than any person who could be selected, and I believe the time not to be distant when that station will require the greatest activity and talents. Arthur, however, still hopes and believes that no obstacle will occur to the other plan; but

my anxiety, as well for India as for him, induces me to suggest

these hints to you.

"I am just arrived in town again, and I should be glad if you could allow me to see you any time to-morrow."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. ELLIOT.

1806, November 25. Downing Street.—"I have this moment received your letter and its inclosure, and I write two lines to save the post, to assure you that I am perfectly sensible that if there is any mistake in the business, it rests entirely with me; and that no man can possibly be more sensible of your uniform kindness and friendship, or set a higher value upon it." Copy.

THE SAME to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, November 26. [Downing Street.]—"I have the honour humbly to acquaint your Royal Highness that I took this day the first opportunity that the meeting of the Cabinet afforded me since I last had the honour of attending your Royal Highness, in order to discuss with them the possibility of recommending to his Majesty such an arrangement as your Royal Highness had done me the honour to mention to me respecting the government of Jamaica. In stating this subject to them I fully explained the very strong and earnest wishes your Royal Highness entertained on the subject, as well as the motives of feeling and affection on which those wishes were grounded. And I am sure I can say with great sincerity on their part, as well as on my own, that no stronger inducement could be urged to any of us for the adoption of the proposal, if motives of public duty did not seem to oppose insurmountable obstacles to it. But the very circumstances of the health of his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex which render a residence in a warmer climate desirable for him would, in our judgment, create strong and just objections to his appointment to a station, always of great trust, labour, and responsibility, but which is become more peculiarly so in the present moment.

"Under these circumstances we feel persuaded that interpretations would be given in public to such a measure, which it would be highly improper to suffer to attach upon any step in which his Royal Highness's name was in any

manner mixed.

"I humbly entreat your Royal Highness to be persuaded that I feel the greatest reluctance in stating any difficulties in the way of a measure wished by your Royal Highness, and from motives which do so much honour to your feelings; but, in the present case, it really does appear to us all to be unavoidable.

"Lord Howick will have the honour of communicating to your Royal Highness the melancholy event of the Duke of Brunswick's death, and also the account of the surrender of Magdeburgh and Hamelen, in addition to all the other Prussian fortresses." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to MARQUIS WELLESLEY.

1806, November 28. Downing Street.—" If you have time pray read the inclosed, and send me a note of what you think

on the subject.

"What day was it you were to dine with me? I think it had best be Tuesday, because it is not quite sure that I shall return on Monday from Cashiobury, where I am going to-morrow. If that suits you pray write a note to Sir J. Anstruther to acquaint him that Tuesday is the day, when I hope to see him at dinner to meet you." Copy.

H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 28. Brighton.—"I return you my best thanks for your letter, and have only to regret that the unfortunate state of my poor brother's health should appear to be such as to prevent his being appointed, in the opinion of yourself and of your colleagues, to the government of Jamaica. What can be done about him, or for him? for he ought not to be left to perish here. A warmer climate is absolutely necessary for the preservation of his life, and I am greatly afraid that, from a variety of unfortunate circumstances, his pocket is not in a better state than his health is; and which embarrassments tend in no small degree to irritate his feelings in his present state of extreme suffering and debility, and which exceeds all belief. Let me therefore entreat of you to turn this over in your mind, and to see what can be done in some shape or other for him, as something ought and must be done for him, for it would be not only cruel, but disgraceful to leave him as he is with a knowledge that a change of climate is what is positively essential for the preservation of his life. I am confident that you will make all the liberal allowances for what my feelings are and must be as a brother, and especially for one who so truly merits the affection of every individual of his family, and of none more than of myself. And I therefore encourage a reasonable hope that you will, with as little delay as possible, think out something that may give him a chance of enjoying health once more, and lengthen his term of years; at least the prospect of that term which he has now before him, and which we have but too much reason to know and to apprehend is very short indeed."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, November 28. Eden Farm.—"We now have some doubt whether an Act of Parliament will be necessary for the Sicrra Leone adjustment, and I have again referred the point to the Attorney and Solicitor General. I conceive that there

are obvious reasons for discussing the subject in Parliament even if it should not be necessary, and for having the concurrences of Parliament, as to a settlement which must annually lead to a vote of money. But at all events it is desirable to settle what form and plan of government should be substituted on the proposed surrender, and on this we must wait for your directions.

"I have bestowed almost every waking hour this week on the American treaty. If Messieurs Monro and Pinkney will accept the jurisdiction article of five miles, excluding the armed ships of our enemies from the two additional miles, I am sure that such an arrangement is not liable to any material objection, and that it is not unreasonable, in consideration

of the peculiar shelvings of the North American shores.

"As to the Colonial article, after frequent and discussion with the King's Advocate I am satisfied that, if maintaining our principle and right of restraint, we consent by an article to do only, and for a limited time, what the Admiralty Courts now do, and with restrictions beyond what Lord Hawkesbury formally communicated to Mr. Rufus King, we shall not stand exposed to any material attack. A duty on the importation (it should rather be on the exportation) will certainly and decidedly be refused, nor would there be means of ensuring the bonâ fide laying of such a duty. In truth I know no means so good, as far as they may extend, as the clogging the trade with landing, warehousing, reshipping, and proof (when required) of bona fide property. I had once thought that it might be useful to compel the not reshipping within a certain time; but that might lead to endless litigation.

"The other articles of the treaty are plain sailing; your treaty of 1797 furnishes most of them. I have added some others, and would propose to consult on them the law officers, and Mr. Frewyn, and Mr. Vansittart. The conclusion of the treaty to the effect which seems not improbable will be an

important circumstance to us."

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, November 28. Eden Farm.—"You have lately been so much occupied that I have not attempted to add to your interruptions. I feel, however, that several incidental businesses might perhaps have been adjusted, if I could have consulted you.

"I am to meet Lord Holland and the Americans on Thursday at 11, and I shall be at the Office for Trade from 12 till half-past 2. I go from thence to Roehampton till Saturday morning, when I shall again be in Whitehall.

"Mr. Harrison mentioned your doubt as to the legality of Sir Erasmus Gower's proposition. It had already occurred to me; and also, the impropriety of drawing on the British Treasury in any case for district balances. We have put

that matter in a course of enquiry.
"On Thursday I am to see Mr. Thornton on the part of the Sierra Leone Company, with a view to the final transfer. The proprietors stated a doubt to us last week whether the transfer was meant to include the unalienated lands. I conceive there cannot be a doubt that it was meant, and have answered accordingly.

"You sent a case of casuistry from some merchants who desire to know whether the [y] might not protest bills from Bordeaux in order to counterbalance their bills which may not be paid in the north of Europe. There is something unprincipled in the suggestion; but we have put it aside

civilly.

"I am becoming a convert to the practicability of the Chinese scheme. Mr. Macqueen arrived on the 1st of September at St. Helena with 194 Chinese (having lost only 6), and he is now probably at Trinidad. The expence appears nothing beyond freight and provisions, though Mr. Layman's paper describes it as enormously great. My only doubt now is whether it would not be prudent to have the report from Governor Heslop before we decide that it is expedient to transfer the undertaking to private adventurers, whose indiscretion may totally mar it with the Chinese. I submit to you that, at any rate, if Mr. Barlow's (?) proposition is to be adopted, he should be restrained to Calcutta and Prince of Wales' Island, under the sanction of the East India Company; and on the system so prudently and successfully pursued by Mr. Macqueen.

"The return of Macqueen will also give new light to us. It is a consideration of incalculable importance, and you must give up an hour or two to it some morning, and perhaps

Lord Wellesley should attend.

"In Macqueen's affair there has been an irregularity which alarms me. He has taken an investment of India goods from Calcutta to Trinidad, pursuant to his instructions. I apprehend that this is utterly illegal, and that by 7 Geo. I the ship and cargo are subject to forfeiture.

"I must also hope for your presence some day on the question for colonizing Botany Bay, allowing their trade, but confining it strictly to Great Britain and to British ports. Query as to their shipbuilding, fisheries, and other

industries?

"It is also material to consider whether free ports may be safely tried at Brunswick and Halifax. It is a point the more urgent, as the American Commissioners are proposing an article for a regulated intercourse with our colonies, particularly in the article of plaster of Paris for

"We must also come to some decision as to the application

of the West India planters.

"The bills on some inferior points are preparing; it would be desirable to have the whole cleared before the session commences.

"Mr. Eden has given a very efficient assistance to the balloting for Westminster, and is at this moment occupied

in that unpleasant service.

"On the whole the popular elections (with the single exception of Southwark, which turned on other circumstances) have ended, and are ending, most favourably for Government.

"I am plagued with Blenheim letters relative to poor Lord

Charles."

Private. EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 28. Bath.—"I had not the opportunity of seeing you to speak to you on Wednesday, or I should have told you that I had had an interview that morning with Lord Cassilis, whose scntiments will best appear by the enclosed letter, which I have just received from him. I have told him in answer that I would communicate the contents of it to you; and I think it right to inform you that, in the course of our conversation, I took care not to give the least ground for his expecting any alteration in our determination on the subject of this ribbon; though I did not let him know what was proposed to be done about it.

"I take this opportunity of sending you a letter from Mr. Brooke of the Alien Office, enclosing some intelligence he has received from Hamburg, which is not unlikely to be well founded, as I collected from my conversation with the man who has lately offered us communications from Bourrienne's office, that they were very jealous there of our

supposed projects of a closer concert with Sweden.

"I also enclose you a letter I have received from the Duke of Bedford on the subject of Irish pensions. I am not sure whether I ever mentioned the extension he proposes for Mrs. Kirwan's pension or no; but, if I did, I entirely forgot to let him know it. I do not think there seems any objection to that extension, or to the other suggestions he makes; and, therefore, as soon as I have your authority, I will write to him to that effect.

"I have also received a letter to-day from Elliot on the subject of the increasing disorders and outrages in Ireland, as set forth in the papers which I caused to be circulated before I left town. I will direct a copy of it to be sent to you, though I do not know of any further step that can be at present taken upon it, till the event of the special commission is known."

LORD GRENVILLE to H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

1806, November 29. Downing Street.—"I had this morning the honour to receive your Royal Highness's com-

mands. Under the circumstances there mentioned it really does not appear to me that there are any other places to which his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex could go with advantage for the recovery of his health, and for avoiding the danger of a winter in England, except the island of Madeira, or Malta; Lisbon being manifestly too insecure a residence to be trusted to in the present situation of Europe.

"I am in the greatest degree distressed by what your Royal Highness mentions of the pecuniary difficulties of the Duke of Sussex, to which I am really afraid, in the present state of the Civil List, it is absolutely impossible for me to suggest

any remedy.
"Even since the last augmentation of the Civil List, which took place in July 1804, the expense has been going on upon an average of above 100,000l. per annum beyond the allowance; and I consequently found in February last a fresh debt incurred, and an excess still going on. Your Royal Highness will, I am sure, feel that the present state and circumstances of the country are not such as would make it possible to apply to Parliament for a further increase until every endeavour has been exhausted to reduce the expense within the bounds of the increased allowance as granted in 1804. I have accordingly employed myself in investigating this subject, but I greatly fear that it will be found that the estimate was then taken too low, and that the necessary and unavoidable expense will go beyond the estimate.

Under these circumstances, and when every part of this subject must be expected to undergo in the present, or, at latest, in the next session a minute and jealous investigation, no step could be more injurious to the public interests, or to those of the Royal family, inseparably connected with the former, than that it should appear that fresh charge has been incurred on their account, in addition to the Parliamentary increase of allowance which was granted to their Royal Highnesses last session, and which, I am sorry to say, has (within my own knowledge) been, however unjustly, the cause

of much dissatisfaction in the public.

"I have taken the liberty to trouble your Royal Highness with this detail, because nothing can be more painful to me than to appear to stand in the way of any accommodation that can be required for the comfort or dignity of any of the branches of a family whom I so much respect and revere; but I am certain your Royal Highness is too just to impute to me the hard necessity of the times in which we live, and too discerning not to see the deference that must, under such circumstances, be paid to public opinion, even when it operates in a manner very contrary to what would otherwise be wished." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, November 29. Downing Street.—"I have had the honour to receive your grace's letter in recommendation of General Keppel; and I beg to assure you that whenever any opportunity shall occur in which I can with propriety be of service to him, it will give me the most sincere satisfaction to find myself enabled upon that as upon all other occasions to do whatever is agreeable to you." Copy.

THE SAME to THE SAME.

1806, November 29. Downing Street.—"I have the honour to acknowledge your grace's letter of the 22nd, on the subject of the proposed arrangement of the salaries of the under secretaries in the chief secretary's Office; an arrangement which appears to me very proper, and will, I am persuaded, be attended with all the advantage your grace proposes from it." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 29. Eden Farm.—"We have various other applications from speculatists as to the productions of Buenos Ayres, with offers to establish copper mines, the culture of silk-worms, and other industries. If our possessions in that country should be confirmed and extended, it will be very material to ascertain the several modes in which they may be rendered useful; and we have recommended to Mr. Windham's Office to institute such an enquiry. I do not know whether you have sent any very intelligent collector of duties to Buenos Ayres, but a proper person of that description might be instructed to employ himself to good effect.

"I yesterday received a strong memorial from merchants trading to Italy urging the great importance of not considering Leghorn as in a state of war; and also a memorial for leave to bring cargoes of corn from Genoa, which I conceive will be very expedient in the actual and probable state of the Baltic ports.

"Mr. Geddes, an intelligent merchant, is to sail to-morrow for St. Domingo with a cargo of 120,000*l*. value in British manufactures. I have desired him to inform himself whether we can obtain from Dessalines any exclusive

advantages."

THE MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM to THE SAME.

1806, November 30. Stowe.—"I am endeavouring to put upon paper some few observations on the very material change of your plan, but I do not lose a moment in urging you to send orders to the East Indies for preparing an armament against Manilla, which might be ready for the 1st of August for that object; and, even allowing for every delay, it would still be earlier on the Spanish American coast, wherever it may be wanted, than the proposed armament,

which is not proposed to sail from Bengal sooner than October. In this interval, those troops will have taken the Philippines and completed themselves for their South Sea voyage. And, at all events, orders of this sort do not interfere with your ulterior plan. Pray let me know by one word whether you like this project; remembering that, if you do, you must send one European regiment to India by the January ships, to supply the

waste and the garrison of Manilla.

"What can you do about our confiscation at Hamburgh; should you not stop the payment of bills drawn from thence? But if Dantzick should be taken, and Denmark receive her orders from Bonaparte, what is to become of any of our commercial relations whatsoever? This however is, I am persuaded, rather a difficulty of the moment than one which is to be of any serious or long continuance; for, whatever shape this is ultimately to take, I feel satisfied that English merchandise will find its way."

MARQUIS WELLESLEY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, November 30. ———. "I have settled with Sir John Anstruther to dine with you on Tuesday, and as I think Arthur would be of great use in the discussion, I have taken la liberté grande to invite him also.

"If you choose to remain at Dropmore, we could come to

you there; let me know.

"Your paper leads to several observations, which I will send to you to-morrow or Tuesday."

GEORGE III. to THE SAME.

1806, December 1. Windsor Castle.—"The King would not consider himself justified in delaying to acquaint Lord Grenville, that he has received from the Duchess of Brunswick a letter, dated at Augustenburg November 15th, in which she states, that the late melancholy events have produced the entire ruin of her finances; that one half of her fortune was placed at Brunswick, that what she received as Electoral Princess, and money which she had placed in the ducal treasury are in the hands of the French. In this situation, the Duchess has appealed to the King for support, and his Majesty feels bound by every tie of duty and affection to prove to her and to the world that she has not appealed to him in vain. therefore trusts that his ministers will consider of the necessary steps to enable him to make an adequate provision for the Duchess of Brunswick and her family, and he has too much confidence in the proved attachment of his people, not to feel assured that the same feeling will, upon this occasion, be cheerfully extended to his sister. The King also sends to Lord Grenville the copy of a statement which accompanied the Duchess of Brunswick's letter."

Enclosure.

Exposé des Malheurs de la Maison Ducale de Brunswick.

"Les événemens qui ont entraîné la ruine de la famille Ducale de Brunswick se sont succedés avec une rapidité dont

l'histoire n'offre pas d'example.

"Le commencement de ses malheurs date de la journée disastreuse d'Auerstadt du 14 Octobre. A peine l'action fut-elle engagée, que Monseigneur Le Duc de Brunswick fut blessé d'un coup de mousquet; la balle étoit venue obliquement passer dessus l'oeil droit, briser l'os du nez, et ressortir par le coin de l'oeil gauche. L'armée Prussienne ayant appris la perte de son chef, fut décontenancée; le découragement et le désordre s'en emparerent, la défaite totale de cette superbe

armée, et une déroute sans exemple en furent la suite.

"Monseigneur le Duc, renversé de son cheval par la force du coup, fut reconnu et enlevé du champ de bataille par un feld-jaeger Prussien; après un premier pansement, on le transporta dans sa voiture à Sangerhausen, mais ne pouvant supporter le mouvement de la voiture, il fut conduit plus loin dans une litière, et arriva à Blankenburg le 17 au soir. veille, qui étoit le 16 Octobre, à 2 heures après midi, on reçut à Brunswick la nouvelle affreuse de la blessure du Duc, et de la défaite de l'armée Prussienne. Celle-ci fut immédiatement après confirmés par l'arrivée de plusieurs officiers supérieurs Prussiens, et par celle du Prince Henri de Prusse, et du Prince Paul de Wurtemburg, qui avoient trouvés leur salut dans la fuite. Vinrent ensuite des compagnies entières de Saxons et de Prussiens, des centaines de chariots remplis de blessés et de bagages, qui ne laisserent plus doutes de la déroute complette. En même tems, on apprit de toute part que les François, poursuivant les fuyards, s'étoient repandus dans le pays de Halberstadt, et qu'on devoit craindre à Brunswick la visite d'un camp volant François.

"Dans ces circonstances le Ministère de Brunswick, craignant avec raison pour la sûreté personelle de S. A. R. Madame la duchesse, et de toutes les personnes appartenantes à la famille Ducale, insista sur ce qu'elles partissent sans aucun delai. S. A. R. instruite de ce danger, n'hésita pas un instant de suivre les conseils que son ministère crut devoir lui donner, et elle partit 6 heures après qu'elle en eut été avertie, le 17 Octobre à 5 heures du soir; ses deux fils, les Princes George et Auguste la suivirent le lendemain. On se rendit d'abord à Rostock en pays neutre, et sur les bords de la Baltique, afin de pouvoir

aller plus loin en cas que le danger approchat.

"Dans l'intervalle, l'armée Françoise avança victorieusement dans les états du Roi de Prusse, et fit mine d'occuper aussi le Duché de Brunswick. Le Duc, qui s'étoit fait transporter le 21 Octobre dans sa résidence pour y être plus tranquille, et jouir du répos nécessaire à sa guérison, envoya son Grand Marêchal, Monsieur de Munchhausen, au quartier général, chargé d'une lettre pour l'Empereur Napoléon, à l'effet d'obtenir la neutralité pour son pays. Il crut pouvoir y prétendre avec d'autant plus de droit, qu'en sa qualité de souverain, il ne s'étoit jamais permis aucune démarche qui ait pu déplaire à l' Empéreur de France; et que cclui-ci, selon des principes généralement reconnus, sauroit fort bien distinguer les deux qualités différentes de Duc souverain de Brunswick, et de Feld-Maréchal Prussien. Mais il a plu à sa Majesté Impériale de voir les choses sous un autre point de vue; Napoléon a voulu regarder Le Duc comme l'auteur de la guerre, qui l'a fomenté; et il s'est persuadé que le Duc n'avoit fait le voyage de Petersburg que dans le seul but de disposer le Cabinet de Russie à entrer dans une nouvelle coalition. Monsieur de Munchausen fut donc renvoyé avec une réponse conçu dans les termes les plus durs. L'Empereur fit dire au Duc entre-autres, que si sa blessure étoit mortelle, il n'avoit que ce qu'il meritoit; qu'il lui promettoit de ménager le pays de Brunswick, mais qu'il lui donnoit en même tems sa parole que ni lui, ni aucun de sa famille, ne s'entreroit jamais en possession de ce duché.

"Cette réponse, aussi révoltante qu'inattendue, détermina Le Duc à quitter Brunswick. Il en partit le 25 Octobre, et se fit transporter à Altona, couché dans un lit d'osier, recouvert de taffetas ciré, et suspendu à des ressorts entre deux brancards de voiture; il arriva à Ottensen, village situé à la porte

d'Altona, le 28 au soir.

"Le lendemain du défait du Duc, le 26 Octobre, le François entrerent dans Brunswick, et publierent une proclamation par laquelle le Duché de Brunswick fut declaré un pays conquis. Les armes et titres de la famille ducale furent otés de partout. Les départemens d'administration et de justice furent confirmés provisoirement, et toute cette opération se fit sans le moindre désordre, et en observant une grande discipline, qui cependant ne fut pas aussi exactement observé dans les villages, où l'on doit avoir commis beaucoup d'excès.

"Son Altesse Royale, étant instruite que son illustre époux s'etoit fait transporter à Altona, n'eut rien de plus pressé que de s'y rendre. Elle partit le 30 Octobre de Rostock, et arriva le 2 Novembre à Altona. Elle trouva le Duc très affaibli,

et n'osa plus se flatter de sa guérison.

"D'un autre côté les corps Prussiens qui avoient eu le tems de se rallier, cherchoient à joindre l'armée du Prince de Hohenlohe, qui avoit pris sa position derriére l'Oder, depuis Stettin jusqu' à Cüstrin; poursuivis par les François qui tacherent de les couper. Ils se voient forcès de passer par le Mechlenburg et par le territoire de Lubeck, quoique pays neutre. Les François, suivant leures traces, les y rencontrèrent, et ces pays neutres devinrent le theatre des hostilités, et des scênes les plus affreuses, peu après que s'altesse royale en eut passé ees frontières.

"Bientôt l'approche des François du territoire de Hambourg rendit aussi le séjour d'Altona peu sûr pour la personne de s'Altesse Royale. Le Ministre de Britannique, Monsieur Thornton qui, avec un zèle infatigable, s'empressa à être utile à s'Altesse Royale, crut devoir l'avertir du danger et l'engager à s'en éloigner. Madame la Duchesse venoit de recevoir l'invitation la plus pressante de Madame sa nièce, la Duchesse de Holstein-Sonderbourg-Augustenbourg, de se rendre auprès d'elle, à son chateau d'Augustenbourg, situé dans l'isle d'Alsen sur les côtes du Duché de Schleswig. Elle crut devoir en profiter, et elle partit d'Altona le 7 Novembre. Elle auroit désiré que le Duc, son époux, eut pu de même aller plus en avant dans le Holstein, et accepter la proposition très obligeante du Prince Royal de Dannemarke, qui lui avoit fait offrir un asyle dans ses états. Mais les chirurgiens et médicins declaroient que le malade n'etoit absolument point transportable, sans qu'on courut le risque de le faire mourir sur le champ. Cette déclaration fit connoitre à s'altesse Royale le danger de la situation de son. époux, et l'approche du moment où elle dut avoir le malheur

"En effet, à peine arrivée a Finsbourg, elle y reçut la nouvelle affligéante de la mort de Monseigneur le Duc, qui étoit décédé le 10 Novembre entre 1 et 2 heures apres midi. Elle continua sa route pour Augustenbourg où elle arriva le 13, accueilli par Madame sa nièce de la manière la plus tendre et la plus amicale, dans l'espérance de pouvoir y passer l'hyver, et jouir dans cette paisible rétraite des douces consolations de l'amitié, que Madame la Duchesse sa nièce s'empressa de lui procurer.

"La mort de Monseigneur le Duc de Brunswick enlève à la fois à sa famille l'appui de son chef, et toute espérance de rentrer dans ses possessions. Il reste ceperdant à s'Altesse Royale un puissant appui dans la personne de son auguste frêre. Elle ose recommander à sa protection particulière et sa personne, et celle de ses enfans et petits enfans. Les deux princes ainés, malheureux par leurs infirmités, ont d'autant plus besoin de secours; et le Prince Guillaume, étant père de famille, a une charge de plus, celle de pourvoir à la subsistance de femme et enfans. Il s'est couvert de gloire dans cette campagne, étant du corps de Blucher, qui finalement a été obligé de capituler. Il a été fait prisonnier de guerre et relaché sur la parole."

LORD GRENVILLE to GEORGE III.

1806, December 1. Downing Street.—"Lord Grenville has the honour humbly to acquaint your Majesty that he has laid before the Cabinet your Majesty's commands of this date, with the inclosed statement received by your Majesty from her Royal Highness the Duchess of Brunswick; and that your Majesty's servants will immediately consider of the

proper form of an application to Parliament on this subject, not entertaining the smallest doubt that your Majesty's Parliament and people will be anxious to embrace this and every other opportunity of testifying their dutiful and grateful attachment to your Majesty's royal person and family." Copy.

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 1. Eden Farm.—"As Lady Auckland and I have some uneasiness respecting the health of Lady Francis Osborne, we have determined to go to-morrow to Gogmagog, and hope to be able to dine and sleep in town on Friday; and with that speculation I this day adjourned the

Board of Trade till Saturday next at 11 o'clock.

"I saw most of the principal Hamburgh merchants, and, so far as their accounts may be depended on, their loss by the late transaction will not be very considerable; though possibly some individuals may take the occasion to declare a bankruptcy. It seemed to be the disposition of the merchants to have no meeting, and to take no step till they shall have further communicated with us: and they conceive that it will be the sense of government also to wait for further information.

"We received to-day some most satisfactory accounts of the effect of the bounty on the Newfoundland trade; which has been more than doubled, as to the export of fish, ships employed, and on the whole is now as high (I mean for the present year) as in any year of profound peace, except only in 1789. I directed the accounts to be transmitted to the

Treasury.

"The West India planters and merchants are desirous to wait on you, and to ask whether you think it best that they should present a petition to Parliament, or previously to have an investigation of the contents of their memorial. I venture to answer that you would think it right that the Committee of Council should have a further communication with them, though I was not sanguine as to the result. And they are appointed accordingly to attend on Tuesday the 9th at eleven o'clock, and a second time in the course of the week.

"I am anxious to see a good state of the new Parliament (which I conceive to be very favourable) and some settled financial plan, which I conceive may be so turned as to be ample in its produce, and at the same time would, by passing without material opposition, give confidence at home, and discouragement to Napoleon, if it be his intention and hope (as probably

it may be), to wear us down by expense."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD ELLENBOROUGH.

1806, December 1. Downing Street.—"I have made a few alterations in the Abolition Bill agreeably to your suggestions.

"Pray be so good as to consider it again in its present shape, and to make any farther alterations you may think necessary.

"You will observe that the prohibition is absolute against carrying away from any foreign country, any slave whatever.

"I think that while the prohibition is confined to the trade from foreign countries, we may safely make it general, without embarrassing ourselves with the distinction between purchased and born slaves, the difference between whom it would be extremely difficult to come at, in any way of proof. Nor in truth could it be desirable, though to be sure it would be one degree better than the present practice, to establish breeders of slaves on the coast of Africa for the supply of our Colonies, which would be the necessary effect of any such distinction made by the Legislature." Copy.

The Marquis of Buckingham to Lord Grenville.

1806, December 2. Stowe.—"I have had a very satisfactory consultation upon Saltash, in which matter I hope and believe that we are safe; for the variety of new evidence which we are now masters of, will, I have no doubt, overthrow the collective practices to which the last committee—upon an agreement made for Mr. Pitt by George Rose-were parties. The court of King's Bench has given us our mandamus for a new mayor, and we shall of course admit about thirty new freemen. Most of my Cornish connexions are too far distant to be useful at elections as freemen; but, as Boconnoc is only 19 miles from Saltash, I wish you to give me the names of your steward, and your parson, and any two respectable connexions or tenants to be named freemen. I have, of course, put in the name of Mr. Gilbert, but your voters would, for so many reasons, be most eligible to me; and I will beg you to let me have them by the return of post, that they may be forwarded to Saltash.

"Mr. Carpenter desired me to tell you that Sir Thomas Turton—to whom he has been much attached on the most intimate footing for thirty years—has authorised him to say, that he has every personal respect for Lord Grenville, and is not indisposed to support him. And Carpenter adds further, that a little civility will completely attach him. He is a very talking man, but will be useful in many points; and as I cannot discover that he has any particular object, it may be worth while to try to gain him. You understand that he draws a line, distinct from the party and opinions of Mr. Fox."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, December 2. Downing Street.—"I always feel a strong disposition to think that when it is not clear what course to take, the best is to remain quiet. And this above all others in matters of trade and finance. The proposal of confiscating foreigners' property in our funds I have in

abhorrence, and believe it to be quite as impolitic as it is unjust. Nor could I without great reluctance adopt any plan for enabling our merchants to refuse the acceptance of bona fide bills; and certainly on this point, we must be right in waiting for more information.

"I entirely agree with you that the West India planters and merchants must first state their case to the Committee of Trade, and have it then investigated, before it is brought

into Parliament.

"I reckon the new Parliament at from 430 to 500 friends, from 120 to 130 contrary, and the rest doubtful or absent.

"I have now under consideration a project, which, if I could bring it to bear, would enable us to carry on many years of war without new taxes.

"It is this:—

Suppose our loan fifteen millions for this year (a high calculation) and our war taxes now productive at 20,000,000l.

per annum.

"Then appropriate so much of the war taxes as will pay the interest, and usual 1 per cent. on this loan, and add to it from the same source such an additional and separate sinking fund as will, with the help of the 1 per cent. pay off in years (say 12 or 14) a capital equal to that created by this loan. At the expiration of that period both interest and sinking fund fall in, and are again applicable to a similar operation if the war continues so long.

"The same operation next year, and so for the succeeding years, observing always that the loan must progressively increase with the diminution of the disposeable part of the

war taxes.

"I do not know whether this short sketch explains to you the outline of the plan. It is quite in embryo, but I am sure it well deserves consideration, if we could now say to the country, you are arrived at the limit of your taxation, and may go on for ever (as this plan seems to hold out) with no, or with no considerable addition to your burthen. Pray think it over." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, December 3. Downing Street.—"I send you the transport service accounts, by which you will see that the whole charge for hire of transports et cetera is, at this moment, going on at a rate of not less than 1,200,000l. per annum, and that near half, perhaps more, of that sum is totally useless for any present purpose we have in view.

"Will you have the goodness to take this subject into your earliest consideration, and, after you have done so, return these papers with [what] occurs to you upon them."

Copy.

Private. LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 4. Gogmagog Hills.—"... Postponing all minor considerations till I can see you, I will now confine myself to the financial project. The prominent difficulty in that measure is, that it avowedly converts war taxes (and many of them are essentially of that description) into a peace revenue. If consequently holds out to the merchants a continuance of the convoy duties when convoys shall cease: and other descriptions of people will strongly object to a prolongation of the property-tax, which they already are impatient to be relieved from. Still, however, those obstacles ought, perhaps, to be encountered if the position were well founded that 'the measure would enable us to carry on many years of war without new taxes.' I am very desirous to see your calculations, and hope in the meantime that there is some blunder in mine.

"But it appears to me that the whole of the war taxes would be eaten up and consumed in a period of six or seven years' war. I mean in the supposition that their produce taken at twenty millions, should be subject to pay the interest of an annual loan of fifteen millions; and to discharge the principal within a period of seven or eight years from each loan so made. And therefore, that at the end of seven years, we should remain without any applicable produce of war taxes. If the war should continue beyond that period, the effect would be very serious. If a peace should then have taken place, it must last seven or eight years before the war taxes can be entirely redeemed from such a mortgage and discontinued.

"But I give this statement with diffidence, and not to discourage the plan, if it can be worked into a form not grievously questionable, and not likely to excite a fever among

our parliamentary friends and enemies.

"Even if the measure were easier than I apprehend it to be, I should incline to think that for the ensuing year, it would be desirable to find the fifteen millions by the usual mode of loan, and to vest the 6 per cent. interest, (900,000l.) on the 400,000 annually which are falling in, and on an omnium gatherum produce of small imperceptible additions in a new consolidation; still (if it should be thought right) sounding the temper of the country prospectively on the application, in a subsequent period of years, of a part at least of the war taxes, for the new loans, and for their redemption in twelve or fourteen years.

"The simpler measure of a vote to continue, if it shall be necessary, the war taxes for two years only after the peace, would give you a loan, interest thereon, and early redemption, of all that would be wanted for two years war, beyond the provision for one year above stated; and thus there would be a provision for three years without new taxes, and without

any diminution of the war fund in the mean time.

"At all events it appears to me to be of the first importance to avoid any measure that may shake the real and ostensible preponderance of your Government in the actual conjuncture; and with that view, avoiding all unpopular measures (however cligible some of them might be in some respects) I would bring forward only what is demonstrably beneficial, and would use our strength, in debate, public opinion, and numbers, to bear and beat down the sort of attacks which were attempted with some success in the last session."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, December 5. Downing Street.—"I dine at home and shall be happy to see you and Vansittart this evening as soon as it is convenient to you, that we may talk over the outlines of the financial project on which he is now at work. I do really begin to be very sanguine about it. You will see that on the plan we are now pursuing there will be only a part of the war taxes to be continued after the return of peace, and that possibly a small one.

"But even should this not be the case it is to be considered:

"1. That pursuing the present system of borrowing, we must impose at the least a million of fresh taxes every year, so that in ten or twelve years more of war (and who shall say we shall have less), we shall have had to lay on as many millions annually of fresh burthens, in addition to the war taxes which must go on at the same time.

"2. That on the present plan the sinking fund will in eight or nine years come in aid of the war taxes, and enable us (possibly even during war) to relieve the country from some

part of that burthen.

"3. That as by this plan we shall create no new debt without a sinking fund equal to its interest, the proportion of sinking fund to debt will every year be rapidly increasing, and consequently the price of stocks kept up against almost any circumstances that may occur.

"These however, and many other considerations we will

talk over when we meet." Copy.

Private. LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 5.—"I send enclosed the copy of the alternative delivered by Lord A[ucklan]d and myself as a project for an article on the interrupted voyage. We found the most practical method of recommending the increase of duty was to clog the other proposal with inadmissable stipulations. The amount of the drawback is left blank. Lord Auckland seemed to think that two thirds (which would leave a duty of 4 per cent.) would be sufficient, and it evidently is as much as the Americans can be induced to consent to. The official communication of Sir J. Nicholls' letter to Lord Hawkesbury implied that Great Britain would

not exact further proofs of a circuitous voyage than those expressed in it, and they did not amount to the securities required in either of these articles, or even to those sketched

in our dispatch of last month.

"We receive their answer to-morrow, and as it is desirable in the course of next week to give them the result of our final determination, I hope you will excuse me for troubling you with the detail before we meet in the Cabinet, as a previous knowledge of the state of the negociation saves much discussion and time.

"With the same view I should wish to lay before you, either in writing or in conversation, as you prefer, some projects relating to Mexico, of which, if all thoughts of other schemes are given up, I hope you will not lose sight."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD HOLLAND.

1806, December 5. Downing Street.—"I think there can be no doubt that we ought to be satisfied with either of the alternatives you have stated, but I should certainly prefer the way of duty to that of warehousing and transhipment.

"I send you for consideration the plan of the Mexican attack, as arranged after much consultation with Sir Arthur Wellesley, who is to command it. I waited till Windham returned to town in order to shew it to him. He seems well satisfied with it, and I should be happy to have your ideas upon it before we bring it forward in the Cabinet, which ought to be previous to the meeting of Parliament, that there may then be nothing left but to carry on the details.

"Lord Henry Petty mentioned to me to-day that Mr. Allen had much information about Mexico. When Sir A[rthur] Wellesley returns to town I shall be very anxious

that he should see him." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 6.—"It was my fault that I missed you to-day, having been apprized by what you said, that you had

Dropmore in your view.

"Among several different little matters which I wanted to mention to you, one was an application for a piece of preferment for my half brother the Dean of Wells. It is a very tempting one, no doubt, for many people, being a sinecure of more than 200l. a year lately held by a Mr. Rashleigh. The name of the parish I do not recollect, but it lies somewhere in Lincolnshire. I must in time trouble you upon the subject of the Dean of Wells, whose income compared with his family is not such as to put him at his case; and who could better afford to wait if you could, in the meanwhile, gratify me by the object in question."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 6. Whitehall.—"I had many waking dreams through the night on the subject of those calculations; but I will not plague you with my reveries till we meet on

Monday.

"It appears, as the paper at present is framed, that at the end of fourteen years, if the war were to last so long, and if a peace were then to take place, that the nation would then stand charged with twenty-nine millions of taxes imposed or continued by the operation of these fourteen years. It is true that from that period they would begin to be extinguished at the rate of about 14 per annum. Still, that statement is formidable; but this and several other points may be better discussed, and I hope to the best effect, when Mr. Vansittart shall have recast, and in some respects varied, the whole scheme."

Private. LORD HOLLAND to THE SAME.

1806, December 7. Holland House.—"I send some papers containing the points on which my information differs from that of Sir A[rthur] Wellesley, and mentioning others on which both seem to me defective. I have ventured to add a comparison of the two first plans, and also some general remarks; but you will, I hope, acquit me of the presumption of setting the least value on my opinions on such subjects. I have thrown them out merely to draw the attention of persons more capable of forming conclusions from the data, to the facts with which they are connected. As to the distant points of attack, they seemed so out of the question that I thought it unnecessary to trouble you with any observations upon them.

"With regard to the force from Honduras, there is an expression in the paper proposing it that, I own, a little startled me, implying that adventurers were to be allured by a

prospect of sharing the plunder.

"If the expedition is to be productive of permanent advantages to the country, and intended (as it surely should be) to separate Mexico for ever from our enemies, the most scrupulous attention should be paid to the conduct and previous character and appearance of the forces employed; for the notion of a plundering expedition would defeat our views both in Mexico and all over Spanish America. This has always struck me so forcibly, and is so much confirmed by the reports I have collected both in Spain and here of the disposition of the inhabitants, that I own, unless the expedition is connected from the beginning with some plan for establishing an independant monarchy in Mexico, I should very much question the policy of undertaking it at all. This however is a large subject on which I will take the first opportunity of talking to you.

"To return to the force; have you ever reflected on the possibility, under all circumstances, of raising Catholic regiments in Ircland for certain sorts of service? Such a force (exclusive of the incalculable advantages resulting from raising it) would be peculiarly adapted to an undertaking of this nature, and in that part of the world."

LORD GRENVILLE to W. WINDHAM.

1806, December 8. Downing Street.—"I disposed of the sinecure you mention last week, as indeed one seldom fails to hear of these things by some application for them within a few hours after they become vacant. I need not tell you how happy I should have been to gratify your wishes respecting so near a connection of yours." Copy.

Private. LORD HOLLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 9. Holland House.—"I return you the papers with many thanks; am very happy to see the plan in such forwardness, and will, in the course of to-morrow, throw together such remarks as occur to me upon it on paper. Mr. Allen will, I am confident, be happy to meet General Wellesley; and it is chiefly from his information, collected with the view of such an undertaking at the commencement of the Spanish war, that I feel myself competent to give an opinion on the subject."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, December 9. Palace Yard.—"... I am so confirmed, by further reflection, in the opinion that your plan will be facilitated and improved by confining the new taxes to 400,000l. annually, that I shall be grieved if any unforeseen objection should present itself on recasting the calculations with that view. It is no objection that in several years you raise less than a sinking fund interest equal to the interest of the loan. The answer is that the plan purports only to raise such an interest within a short and definite period of years, giving great relief to the whole empire in the meantime, and eventually accelerating the discharge of the whole debt.

"2. What will you do as to Ireland?

"It is material to ascertain with precision the sums for which the war taxes remain pledged (whether as to principal or interest) in the supposition of peace at the end of each year

of the period stated in the calculations."

Confidential. "The success of such a business depends much on the personal conviction of many individuals both in and out of Parliament, that the plan is solidly right; and with that view I submit to you that it would be very material to bestow some hours on the discussion of it very soon, with Lord Henry Petty, Lord Howick, Mr. Tierney,

your brother, the Attorney and Solicitor General and others. And I fear that you must take those discussions separately. Several hours must be sacrificed in those preparatories; but they are essential, and will in some degree be compensated by the further improvements which such discussions cannot fail to bring forwards. So far as I can be of use, my time is entirely at your service."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 11. Eden Farm.—"I have proposed to Sir John Nicholl to meet me at the Office for Trade on Saturday morning: I will then confer fully with him on Sir William Scott's difficulty, and on several other considerations of embarrassment in this new state of things. If any further subjects should occur to you that you would wish me to mention to him, you will be so good as to let a minute be forwarded to me.

"I have received your corn paper, and some other applications from London and Liverpool respecting the eventual supply of grain. It is a most delicate string to touch; we may create a sense of alarm at home in the midst of great plenty, and may consequently raise the prices abroad, and produce the mischief by seeking too earnestly to avert it. I am anxious to know the progress of the finance scheme."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, December 11. Downing Street.—"You know I have always a strong inclination against doing, when one does not clearly see that what is to be done is likely to be beneficial; and if there be one subject above all others to which I apply that principle, it is that of corn. At the same time I should like to see as distinctly as it can be ascertained what our prospects are in that respect. What is supposed the stock in hand? What the state of the last harvest? And what means of supply from America in case of difficulty?

"A much less violent measure than that of making the Victualling Board purchase for sale, would be that of making them make their own contracts in America, and so keep that portion of our demand wholly out of the home market.

"I do not well know what can be done with Sir W. Scott's paper. My own inclination is to say that Government considers no country as hostile but such as have been so declared by an act of the Government, and therefore that Hamburghers and other similar claimants are as much entitled as ever to recover their property. I should however, of course, like to hear the objections whatever they are, which may be made to this course of proceeding.

"The finance plan has made no progress since we last talked it over. The calculations are going on, and by to-morrow Vansittart promises me the new statement of the scheme, reducing (by the plan of deferred stock) the taxes to

be annually imposed as low as they can be brought.

"Lord Henry and Vansittart dine with me to-morrow that we may go over the plan in this new form. Can you come either to dinner or in the evening?" Copy.

The Marquis of Buckingham to Lord Grenville.

1806, December 11. Stowe.—"The last time I wrote to you on the Irish disturbances, I stated to you my reasons for thinking the clamour on which these rebellious assemblies were first formed, was only a first step leading to many others; and for my opinion of the necessity of putting down by a strong hand these combinations and meetings in the county of Mayo, for refusing dues to the priests and limiting tithes to the Protestant parsons, I was very soon informed from Ireland that you had—as was natural—transmitted my information (which likewise stated the belief amongst the insurgents that the French frigates taken by Hood were destined to Ireland) to Eliott; and I was informed that my opinions on this whole matter were so little in unison with those of Government, that they were openly talked of as unfounded, and mischievous, and as being in direct opposition to the ideas on which Irish Government acted. As I could not be deceived, knowing the channels of this information, in the language held by those in the Duke of Bedford's confidence on this subject, I groaned over what I was satisfied was misconceived; but I can safely aver that I never have opened myself on this subject from delicacy to you, save to my son, and to Tom, to whom I wrote the day before yesterday more at length on this matter. Subsequent information which I have obtained, satisfies me that the mischief is even deeper, much deeper, than I had imagined even in my most gloomy moments; and that you must look immediately to systematic coercion instead of the system of conciliation, to which the Duke of Bedford and the Irish Government have from very obvious reasons leant, long after every person who had means of judging was satisfied that no alternative was left but that of vigorous coercion.

"These meetings began in the county of Mayo, where it was the tone of Government to treat them as insignificant disturbances, arising out of the exactions of the priests. This language was countenanced by Government, and accorded very much with the principles and opinions of the Orange party, and was consequently their creed. The constant absence of three of their leading proprictors and governors, Lords Tyrawly, Dillon, and Lucan, joined to the very timid conduct of Lord Sligo, left that county completely open to the effects of this mischief; and the systematic plan of swearing whole parishes to give only four shillings per acre tithe money, and to diminish to one-half the dues of the priests, and to obey Captain Trasher, spread without check

of any sort through Sligo and Roscommon. During the whole of this time, the magistrates have shown little inclination to interfere; certainly under an impression that the tithe might be regulated in consequence of these disturbances, to a modus more favourable to the land owner; and with an entire disregard of the question of dues to the priests, as not interesting to them, and not supported by any law. Within the last month the language of these insurgents has changed, and, finding themselves unchecked by the civil power, they fancied that their proceedings on these points were not discountenanced by Government; and opinions formerly given by Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Grattan, and Mr. Curran were quoted as being favourable to their ideas of the quantum of tithe; at the same time that they were left to the operation of every mischievous influence over their minds from the unwearied exertions of many of the most active partisans of the last rebellion, who have returned to Ireland within the last eight months; amongst whom are some who are attainted and continue still excepted out of the act of indemnity, and are known by Government to be in that kingdom. Is it then to be wondered at that the Irish peasant, always prone to mischief, and really oppressed in points out of the reach of Government, such as the letting of their cabins and potatoe gardens, should be deceived by seeing these old rebels at liberty, unmolested, and their opinions upon tithes supported by the former opinions of men now composing the Government? When this system of assembly in large bodies was established, the rest followed of course; and their chapter of grievances -within Captain Thrasher's view-extended to letting of lands to stranger occupants, to county rates, to wages, to absentees; and latterly they have gone the lengths of 'a cheer for Bonaparte, who is to set all this right.' Whilst the magistrates were supinely looking on, upon the first part of this history, the gentlemen who disapproved the line of conciliation-which was the shibboleth of Governmentwere gradually leaving the country; and you will find that many have come to Dublin, Bath, and London, to avoid the mischiefs of this scene during the winter, and the only check that now remained was the army. On this head I fear that there has been great misconduct, for, if I am well informed. the only efficient movable force, which had been concentrated at Athlone, was broken up in July, when the Irish militia light companies joined their regiments, for the purpose of recruiting for the army; and the number never has been replaced; and the only augmentation sent to the force of the very feeble garrisons in Connaught, has been the very weak, and I fear very bad regiment of Westmeath militia. Nor has any order been given to the army in these disturbed districts for their regulation, till within these very few days, when some very un-meaning and inefficient directions were given by Lord Harrington, referring them always to the orders of magistrates, who, it was very clear, would not do their duty generally, though some individuals might still exert themselves. At length Government seemed to wake from its dream, and a special commission was announced for trial of these offenders. I own that when I saw this measure taken, I hoped that the former lesson taught upon this subject in 1796 and 1797 to Lord Camden, would have taught Irish Government the mischief of such a procedure, unless in cases where they were certain of convicting the offenders; for the first trumpet of the last Irish rebellion was sounded, when it was clear to the understanding of everyone, that the usual procedures of our law were unequal to the exigency of a systematic and comprehensive insurrection, and when the law was completely baffled by a terror, much beyond that of the law, the terror of the insurgents. Lord Carhampton's pamphlet in 1798 describes the result of this ill-advised measure, as a complete degradation of Government, of the law, and of the courts; when the witnesses chose to be perjured rather than to be murdered, the murderers were

acquitted and the prosecutors murdered.

"The very same error has again been committed." Chief Justice went down with the Attorney and Solicitor General and all the powers of the law to Castlebar, and on Saturday last it was known in Dublin that, during two days sitting, the grand and petty juries had not been able to carry the law into effect in any one case for want of witnesses, of whom the greater part forfeited their recognizances, and the others perjured themselves in the most undisguised manner. For, in this instance, the insurgents had gone before the precedent of 1796, having actually murdered two informers, one openly and the other privately in Mayo, about fourteen or twenty days before the commission sat. During all this time the nocturnal assemblies, and the oaths to Captain Thrasher spread, and the county of Longford is now all sworn as well as great part of the county of Cavan. But I now come to a fact more immediately alarming, and that is the exertions made to engage the Catholics in the Irish militia in this insurrection, and to induce them to feel an interest in the question of dues. This was tried upon the Kildare militia at Belfast by some of George Nugent's proscribed friends, and had made great impression before it was discovered; and you may be certain that it is not confined to that militia, for several others have been named whom I could mention to your private ear, on whom I could not fix it, but whom my informants has assured me are tainted, namely, the Wexford, Westmeath, North Mayo, Tipperary, Longford. But the Kildare is very bad indeed. I have now only to add upon this gloomy subject, that upon the greater part of itand a great deal more of the details—I cannot be deceived; for Dr. Little, who has the general care of my estates in Ireland, came to me the night before last from Ireland, which

he left on Sunday, having left Longford on the Saturday, where he went for the purpose of conversing with four of my Longford tenants, who had come into Granard with a large party of insurgents, to swear that town, in the same manner as Edgeworthstown had been sworn a few days before, Fortunately a party of the German legion was quartered there, and did its duty under the orders of Mr. Carr, an old officer and good magistrate who lives there. Two men were killed, several wounded, amongst whom is a tenant of mine, and several made prisoners, amongst whom are three more of my They all told Dr. Little that the whole of my tenants in Longford were sworn three weeks ago by a party from Roscommon, who came on purpose. They are all old tenants, with leases renewed last year, under the value, and acknowledged my kindness, but pleaded that their houses would be burnt by Captain Thrasher. They stated their oath was to pay only four shillings per acre tithe, to pay only half dues to the priest, and to obey Captain Thrasher's orders. But they told Dr. Little that no evidence whatsoever would appear against them, for that any approver or informer would be put to death. You may judge for yourself when I tell you, that these very men in the last rebellion stood untainted, though that whole country was in insurrection; and that there was not a single pike or arm of any sort found or known on the estate. But they said 'that they believed that they were doing no wrong, and would not have done so if they thought they were disobeying their landlord.' Such is, I am satisfied, the actual state of Ireland, and I am confident that so long as the Duke of Bedford, Mr. Ponsonby, Mr. Grattan and the Irish Government are conceived to lean to this system of conciliation, which is so natural for them to entertain, the mischief must spread. It is idle to imagine that Bonaparte's agents are not implicated in these proceedings, and you must act under a conviction that he will make Ireland a principal point, from the moment that he shall have succeeded in his Polish project, which I should suppose cannot easily fail.

"I urge you therefore to call for a state of the Irish force, and to satisfy yourself with the disposition of that force, and the quality of it; and if you should find that English force is wanting there, it must at all events be sent, whatever may be the consequence, from this island. I do not exactly know the amount of English regular force there, but I fancy it is very small, and, at all events, you cannot increase the German force there, beyond its actual numbers. But above all I must urge you to have a very distinct explanation on this subject with Lord Howick, Lord Holland and other Whigs, as to the measures that must be taken in Parliament, and upon the means of acting upon those bills by the government of Ireland. I fear that you must revert to much of the old system; but that which must be avoided is the arming the irregular troops with the powers which they so shamefully

abused in 1798. I cannot but think that a somewhat regular tribunal might be formed for capital trials in each disturbed county, in lieu of those flagitious courts-martial of which I saw too much. But above all the Duke of Bedford must be brought to think that he has carried his system quite to the end of its line.

"Do not think that on this subject I have any complaint to make, or any feeling save that of public duty, and of private affection to you. I have delayed this discussion, perhaps too long, from attention to your feelings and situation, and I now urge it because I think that you are misinformed on the true state of Ireland, and that the Irish Government are the last to know, and certainly the last to tell you the effect of opinions imputed to them, and the effect of their acquiescence in the return of every attainted rebel to Ireland. And above all, do not think that my opinions are swayed by former impressions, or tinged by any idle unfounded alarm on a matter so interesting to everyone, but personally so to me and to my family, beyond the general share in the public interest."

VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 13. Richmond Park.—"If I had seen you to-day I should have asked your intentions respecting the house in Downing Street, lately occupied by Sir Charles Morgan. You probably are aware that the sum of 9,000l. was voted in Parliament to purchase it for the Judge-Advocate, and the person now holding that office would certainly be glad of the use of it, if there is no other purpose more convenient to Government, to which it is material to apply it. It is very desirable that there should be a permanent place of deposit for the papers and documents of this Office, and it would contribute of course to his comfort if his Office and residence were under the same roof; but he has no anxiety on the subject, and is particularly desirous of being understood as not having a wish that could interfere with your convenience.

"The question which has arisen on the defective returns from Ireland appears to me to be very embarrassing. If it should be determined that Parliament is still to meet, I incline to think that the irregularity should be immediately noticed on the part of Government, and measures taken on the first day of business to prevent the repetition of it."

LORD GRENVILLE to the MARQUIS OF BUCKINGHAM.

1806, December 14. Downing Street.—"You will easily suppose that just at this moment I have not much time for writing, but I cannot help thanking you for your letter respecting Ireland.

"You will since have seen that two convictions have taken place at Sligo, and one of them is of a very leading offender. We have taken the most expeditious measures for increasing the regular forces in Ireland; but I still am very desirous that the experiment should be made of suppressing these disturbances without having recourse to the dreadful measure of proclaiming the counties, and arming with the public authority all the bad passions of the Irish magistracy and yeomanry.

"When one considers from what class alone the representations for this purpose are, and must be received, it cannot be wondered at that they should receive a little tineture from

their wishes.

"No trace—or next to none—has yet appeared in the disturbed counties of French influence or intrigue. That there are agents of France at work there, and that there always have been such, no one can doubt; but these disturbances appear to have much more Irish in them than French.

"Sinee the above was written I observe that the Insurrection Act must be renewed this session or the next. I am clear it ought to be renewed, though very unwilling, as I before mentioned, to put that part of it in force which relates

to proelaiming the districts.

Thad myself some such ideas as you mention of substituting some new tribunal, and course of proceeding, to that of the horrible courts-martial of which you speak. Pray turn your thoughts to this subject, of which you know so much more than I do, and let me know what you think can be done of that sort by a new Act." Copy.

LORD GRENVILLE to VISCOUNT SIDMOUTH.

1806, December 15. Downing Street.—"Sir Charles Morgan's house will be converted into an Office for the Home Department.

"I will desire the other business to be put into its proper

train.

"I have not heard how many more returns are eome in, but I hardly think the thing is worth talking notice of unless any thing should be said upon it." Copy.

THE SAME to W. ELLIOT.

1806, December 15. Downing Street.—"Herbert, being in Parliament, has resigned the office of Commissioner of Enquiry in Ireland, and I am disposed to appoint Hawthorn to it, if such a nomination would be perfectly agreeable to the Duke of Bedford. Pray let me know as soon as you ean." Copy.

THE SAME to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, December 15. Downing Street.—"The suggestions you make respecting neutral trade shall immediately be considered.

"Do the West Indians themselves suggest any thing to be

done for them beyond the distillery measure?

"I do not see why (in principle) we should continue to load our other manufacturers and trade with burthens in order to pay above 200,000*l. per annum* to the linen manufacturers; the circumstances of the north of Ireland does indeed afford strong reasons against innovating in that matter just now, but if we are hard pressed by and by, we must look to it.

"Does the bounty on printed linen stand on the same, or

on what ground?" Copy.

THE SAME to LORD HENRY PETTY.

1806, December 15. Downing Street.—"On verifying our last project by calculation I am sorry to say it does not turn out quite as well as we had flattered ourselves. Still I feel very sanguine that the general idea will form the basis of such a plan on this subject as will be much more satisfactory than probably anybody not in the secret can hope.

"Lord Auckland, Vansittart and Harrison meet me here on this subject to-morrow evening at 8 by latest, and we shall much wish to have your assistance. As that is a very early hour for getting away from dinner elsewhere, perhaps you will

take your dinner with us here.

"I think we must certainly, as you suggest, reserve to Parliament the power on the return of peace, of choosing between the continuance of the 5 per cent. fund, or a recurrence to a 1 per cent. fund; and I think this may be made sufficiently palatable to the stockholders, though it manifestly tends rather to diminish the value of the offer which we make to them. Your idea as to the army extras exactly meets my wishes, but I fear the execution will be difficult, though I am convinced it is not impracticable." Copy.

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 16. London.—"I return you the Duke of Argyll's very handsome and gentlemanlike letter, in consequence of which I suppose you will, of course, propose to the King to give him the Riband."

Enclosure.

The DUKE OF ARGYLE to THE SAME.

1806, December 11. Edinburgh.—"I confess myself at some loss how to answer the letter you did me the honour to write to me on the 21st of November. I am unwilling to depreciate the value of the honour you have in so flattering a manner proposed to me, and yet I cannot avoid wishing to express how totally indifferent I am to its possession. If any action or merit of mine had given me some sort of claim to a badge of honour, the proposed or any other mark of distinction would be a desirable object, but as a mere appendage

to the rank I accidentally hold in society, I must repeat my indifference with regard to obtaining it. With these sentiments I must leave it to your better judgment to consider whether you may not essentially oblige some other persons with this mark of honour, who may hold different opinions on this subject from me; and I beg leave to assure you that, in whatever way you decide, I shall always feel much more pleasure in the handsome and flattering way in which you offered it, than in the thing itself."

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 16.—"I mentioned to you, I believe, before, when there was a question of a new Barrack-Master-General, that Whitelock was desirous of following in the steps of his predecessor, and of succeeding to that situation from the one which he now holds.

"Should any change take place in the plan which you lately mentioned as being in contemplation, and the office of Barrack Master be continued, pray bear in mind that Whitelock is

a candidate for the situation."

Postscript.—"As to Hope, I trust you consider him as utterly out of the question."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, December 16. Dublin Castle.—"The enclosed letter from the Attorney General reached me this morning. I feel so strong a conviction of the absolute necessity for having one of the Irish Crown lawyers in Parliament, and of the peculiar qualification of the Attorney General for the situation, that I am really precluded from interposing for the purpose he requests. Under these circumstances I have requested him to let me renew my conversation with him on the subject, when he returns to Dublin. In the meanwhile if you will write him a line, I think he will be prevailed upon to make the experiment for at least a part of this session. He urges, as a public ground of objection to the arrangement, that the presence of the Attorney General on this side of the water in critical times will be indispensable; but, of course, his Parliamentary attendance would be regulated by the exigencies of the public service, and would not be required, if his exertions should be wanted here.

"The result of the trials at Castlebar has been, by the description of the Attorney and Solicitor General, most beneficial in its consequences in the county of Mayo; but, as they truly observe, we must not be too hasty in forming an inference with regard to the permanence of the impression. There is in this country much floating mischief, which, with any assurance of French co-operation, would very soon assume

the form of a systematic and dangerous confederacy.

"In this state of things I fear I must relinquish all ideas of seeing you for some months."

Enclosure.

Private. W. C. Plunket to W. Elliot.

1806, December 15. Castle Bar.—"I enclose you a letter which I received here from Mr. Wickham on the subject which you some time since communicated to me, and a copy of my answer to it.

"It is very distressing to me to express reluctance on a subject, when I feel it my duty, if urged, to comply; but I cannot avoid hoping that, in addition to the motives which I mentioned to you when I formerly declined, you will now more strongly than ever be persuaded of the necessity of the Attorney General, in such times as the present, not being absent from Ireland; and that you will use your influence to prevent the measure being pressed. The Solicitor-General has written so fully by this post to Mr. Trail that I have not anything to add. Certain it is that great consternation appears to prevail amongst the insurgents who, a few days since, were very confident; and great confidence amongst the magistrates and gentlemen who, a few days since, were in great consternation; but both the one and the other are barometers of such a construction that I cannot predict with any confidence whether the quick-silver will settle at fair weather."

Private. EARL FITZWILLIAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 17. Milton.—"At the request of the inhabitants of the parish of Dewsbury, a very large and extensive parish in the West Riding, I solicit for the appointment of John Buckworth, A.B., to the vicarage of Dewsbury in case of the death of the present incumbent, which is daily expected. Mr. Buckworth has been several years curate, and I am given to understand that the value of the vicarage

is not more than 150l. per annum.

"A more considerable living in the West Riding is likewise likely to be vacant very soon. The incumbent of Wakefield is supposed to be rapidly declining; whenever his death happens, I shall beg your influence in securing it for my recommendation, as essential to my consideration in Yorkshire; and besides as being important that so large and populous a district should be kept out of the hands of the Methodists, who are spreading their influence far and wide in the manufacturing district, and are becoming fast a most powerful political party through the medium of the patronage of that very church which they are daily undermining."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, December 17. Office for Tradc.—"After a very long discussion with the West India deputation in the presence of Mr. Jackson of the Excise, and of some very intelligent distillers, I think that the parties concerned went away fully satisfied that their proposition cannot be adopted to any extent

that would give material relief to them; and that it would be utterly unreasonable to press for a derangement of so important a system, and of so many interests cannected with it, unless the benefits to be expected from the measure were such as would meet the case offered for relief.

"I think therefore that the consideration may be said to be laid aside for the present; and if you have not time to write to Sir John Newport, if you will send me his letter I will

answer it."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 17. Palace Yard.—"The last concoction of your plan for the twenty-three years may be made intelligible to all who advert to such subjects, and its general impression on those who listen only to the general result, may be favourable. Nor can it alarm the many who are weary of the Property Tax; on the contrary, it is perhaps their best pledge of an early and certain relief. And with respect to the stockholders, I submit to you that there may be means of so wording the business, as to guarantee the payment of the existing old debt at all events, at the period for which it would otherwise be payable. Did it occur to us sufficiently that the extinguished interest, which is meant to be applied to new loans, will annually vary according to the price of stock, and the amount which 8,500,000l. will redeem? I mention that sum because I think it would simplify the business to make the operation commence from the time when the sinking fund arrives at that sum; and if so, Mr. Harrison should be apprized of it.

"But the great difficulty is in the rapid accumulation of new debt. On the other hand, it will not be much (how much?) at the end of *five years*' war, or even at the end of ten years' war; and in despite of all appearances of the moment, it is very improbable that it will last even for the first period.

"It grows extremely urgent that Lord Holland and I should have half an hour with you and Lord Howick on the American Treaty. I have had this last week great assistance from Mr. Frewen as to the commercial part; and from Sir John Nicholl as to the war and colonial articles, and we have nothing new to learn on the subject. In the mean time, the American Commissioners are most anxious to write to the Congress, which is now sitting, and must separate in March."

VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME.

1806, December.—"I have just received the enclosed note from your brother. I believe the presenting the address for the navy estimates is a mere matter of form, and that in fact the King is never waited on for that purpose. If this is true Lord Ossulston's delivering the usual message at the Bar on Monday, will be sufficient. I send also some hints for Morier's instruction,s which I wish you would look at.

"I find they are very confident upon their intended attack with respect to the use of influence at the elections. They talk of a very strong letter to Captain Tomlinson signed by you, which was shown at Liskeard; and of another from Lord Robert Spencer to some person connected with his department at Christchurch."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, December 18. Eden Farm.—"I send the letter from the King's Advocate. It is not material that you should read more of it than the first page and a half. We adjusted the other business mentioned in the letter yesterday. suggestion given by Sir John Nicholl is so exactly conformable to what I had already submitted to you, that I feel encouraged to press you to talk about it with Lord Howick and Mr. Grenville. I have also received a long letter from Mr. Garland, Member for Poole, very strongly urging a similar measure. You will recollect that in August we prohibited the communication between the enemy's ports, and ports specially blockaded. The object now would be to prohibit generally all communication in neutral ships between enemy's ports and enemies' ports. The pressure of such a measure would be severely felt by France and by the countries subject to France, and our own immediate trade with the Continent would be promoted by it.

"I do not plague you with the volumes which I am receiving on this occasion from principal merchants and commercial towns. But, the second measure to be adopted would be an instruction to our cruizers not to molest vessels passing and repassing between our ports, and the ports in the north of Europe which have lately come under the control of the enemy. Vessels are passing and repassing already even in greater number than before the last prohibition from Berlin, and with valuable cargoes. I settled the form yesterday with Sir John Nicholl, and desired Mr. Fawkener

to submit it to you.

"The 3rd measure would be to extend that system to Leghorn and the southern ports: but this is more doubtful.

"A 4th palliation (and it is very desirable even in the opinion of the King's Advocate, if the Lords of the Admiralty would not object to it,) would be, to extend to all innocent articles, the instruction (already existing as to silk and Spanish wool) not to detain neutral ships on account of such articles coming to British ports or going from British ports. In other words, not to seize them because they may be the property of an enemy. If this were well understood, there is reason to believe that this country would have an increased export, and also an import of valuable articles to be deposited here, to an immense amount.

"These considerations are so important and so urgent,

that I do not hesitate to trouble you with them.

"You will not be able to meet the West Indians on Wednesday; but I must previously know from you what can be said to them. It is true that they have above 80,000 hogsheads of British sugar in our warehouses, and are suffering greatly under the stagnation. The distillery, I find, cannot take above 12,000 hogsheads this year, nor above 24,000 in any year, even if it should be thought right to confine the distillers to sugar.

"I send the account of bounties, as you desired; it appears that nothing efficient can be drawn from that resource. The bounties in the nature of drawbacks must be increased, I fear, and the other column of positive bounties is smaller

than we had supposed.

"I return Sir William Scott's letter, and have stated a question upon the subject to Sir John Nicholl; and have also fully conversed with him respecting it. I am to receive his answer on Tuesday, and I think you will find it material and satisfactory. Exclusive of the bills mentioned in my list, there is a large bill for the encouragement of our fisheries.

"If it be desirable you may safely venture to speak favourably of our commercial resources. I have reason to believe that the imports and exports of this year will have been greater than ever; at least Mr. Irving expects to find it

so."

LORD AUCKLAND to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 18. Palace Yard.—"Mr. Vansittart will have sent you a new project which he stated to me last night, and which was discussed till we had nearly exhausted our

understandings.

"His proposition is new and ingenious, and if there be no fallacy in it, is an improved concoction of your plan. My only fear is in respect to his column of new taxes, which I suspect should be 700,000l. annually instead of 400,000l.; but of this I am by no means certain. But even if it should prove so, means might be found to reduce it to 600,000l., and in that shape it would be greatly preferable to any plan that implies an annual increase of new taxes.

"Mr. Vansittart's suggestion, if correctly stated, has a great advantage, in so far as it cannot, in any possible case, pledge more than 9,400,000l. of the war taxes. And though it might be objected by the stock-holders that the redemption of the actual debt would be prolonged beyond the time when it would otherwise be compleated; still it will be found that, within the period, a larger amount of the old and new debt will have been redeemed than is equal to the actual amount of the old debt."

The Marquis of Buckingham to The Same.

1806, December 18. Stowe.—"I have not for the last three days lost sight of the question of the courts-martial

on which you wish for my opinion, in case it should be necessary to resort to the measure of proclaiming any of the disturbed counties in Ireland. In the first place, however, I do most anxiously—and more anxiously than I ever pressed any matter upon you—implore you not to be diverted, as I learn from my Irish letters of this day will be proposed to you, from your intention of proclaiming the county of Sligo, where those disturbances originated, and where the juries and the witnesses perjured themselves in the most marked manner in all the trials; though ultimately two prisoners were convicted of the twenty-seven who were confined on capital charges. Be assured, notwithstanding the recent convictions of twelve at Castlebar, which I learn from Ireland this day, that this, though a perfect reason for not proclaiming Mayo, will not check the flame which is still running like wildfire. The progress of it may be distinctly traced to the encouragement given to the tithe regulations of the Thrashers by the county gentlemen, who have, in instances known to Government, pledged the opinions of all the members of Irish Government to regulations of this description. I have a letter signed by every tenant on my estate in Longford, stating to me that opinions had been so quoted to them in my name. They add, what is true, that the whole county is sworn, and by name every servant in Lord Granard's house, and that of the neighbouring gentlemen; and they even give me the name of the gentleman in the county Longford whose language and directions have guided the whole of the disturbance in that county, and this person is high in the confidence of Government! It has reached the county of Westmeath, and Cavan, from Longford, and it has made much progress in Tipperary. On these facts I cannot be mistaken, and I wish it were possible for me to doubt the interference of France in these violences; but I not only can give you the distinct assurance (of informations that I know to be correct) of the prevalent opinions on this subject, but I can trust to you the two following names, who must not in any case be quoted by you as coming from me, of persons both of whom were excepted from the Bill of Indemnity, both attainted for not surrendering, both very active in the last rebellion, both refugees in France, both returned to Ireland about four months, and both very full of money, though notoriously beggars and one bankrupt. Both of them have latterly been seen very openly in different parts of the northwest of Ireland, and are universally considered from their language as very active and dangerous agents of France. Their names are enclosed and you should direct enquiries to be made about them; but, as I before stated, my name must not be guessed at as the channel of this information, for my informant would most certainly not give evidence. I am likewise told that this flame spreads in Limerick, though I have no exact information of the fact.

"Now ask yourself if it is possible to mistake the causa et origo of all this. Do not imagine that I blame in this matter the Duke of Bedford and his Irish advisers. They act upon their opinions and prejudices on the question of Irish disturbances, which were well known to every one; and it is this very notoriety that satisfies the Irish peasantry that Government is with them in principle, and will not resort to the only coercion that has any influence over them, the coercion of strong force. You will hang some of these wretches at Sligo and Castlebar and—as I hope—some of my tenants at Granard; but you will not hang the magistracy and gentlemen who have supported them, still less will you hang the Duke of Bedford, Ponsonby, and Grattan, whose names are so generally used in this business. Be assured therefore that until you force that Government to disavow by some public, notorious, and marked act, this system imputed to them, the peasant will not be undeceived. I again therefore press the proclamation of the county of Sligo, where this first broke out, and where the process of law has been notoriously baffled in the late trials by the terrors on the minds of the jurors and witnesses; and I have very sanguine hopes that this held out in terrorem will do more to undeceive the mistaken opinions, and to check the progress than the executions of hundreds. To which I will add my earnest opinion that, as the Botany Bay ships are now rendezvousing at Portsmouth, it would be highly eligible that the convicts for transportation for these offences should be removed instantly, so as to give immediate impression on the minds of their comrades. The expense of forwarding them-with escorts-in carriages to Dublin, and from Liverpool to Portsmouth, would be nothing when compared with the impression of immediate punishment; but as the fleet is now preparing, no time should be lost.

"On the subject of courts-martial on persons not military under the late Acts, during the rebellion, the grievances which

particularly struck me were these.

"The powers claimed by every general, colonel, or commanding officer to order them, which gave means of indulging much private animosity of Irish officers, particularly yeomany."

"The great unfitness of the subalterns and young captains,

particularly yeomanry.

"The short proportion of members, often only five." The uncertainty and inaccuracy of the charge.

"The want of legal certainty, with respect to the evidence

and proofs.

"The power claimed of ordering execution of the sentence without the intervention of Government, except where the Lord Lieutenant ordered the court-martial.

"I consider these courts-martial—on persons not military—as necessary in cases, and in districts, where the terror on the minds of jurors and of witnesses make it impossible to convict

by the ordinary course of law; but it should seem expedient to depart as little as possible from those principles, which have endeared to us the code of criminal law, as now used amongst us; and to maintain the law of indictment, and the rule of evidence as much as possible in this substitute court, in conformity to the practice of the ordinary tribunals. This can only be done by the intervention of legal men in these courts. It was found necessary some years since to add to the county quarter-sessions a barrister-chairman with a salary, for the express purpose of conducting trials there, by the usual forms and rules of practice in their proceedings. My idea would be, in arranging regulations for holding courts-martial in disturbed and proclaimed districts on persons not military to provide:

"First. That in cases of capital charge, no court shall be

assembled save by warrant from the Lord Lieutenant.

"This precaution prevents trials vindictively or hastily ordered, and brings the sentences to the Castle for approbation.

"Secondly. That a permanent King's Sergeant or King's Counsel shall be appointed with the Assistant-Barrister to each disturbed county—and to be paid by the county—of whom one is always to preside in every court-martial, whether on capital charge or for misdemeanour, within that county on

persons not military.

"I know this will strike as a novelty, but I contend that it is the true principle of all such courts-martial to have a legal man as chairman of such courts; and in Ireland the principle is recognised in the case of the Quarter Session Barrister. A King's Serjeant or Counsel should be added to this commission, because in some counties the barrister is improperly named, and Government would then have a choice; and this precaution would insure the regularity of proceedings, and would insure to the prisoner the benefit of such assistance as a judge always gives to a prisoner in our other courts, where he is not assisted by counsel.

"Thirdly. A legal prosecutor, to be appointed by the Crown, should conduct the charge or indictment in the manner of information by the Attorney General, according to a settled form to be prepared, mutatis mutandis, for this purpose.

"It is proposed to keep this distinct from the Advocate, whom I should consider as the scribe of the court for the purpose of reducing to writing the questions and answers, which would of course be much shortened by regulating the practice and rule of evidence. The form of indictment or charge would of course be settled by the barrister acting for the Attorney General; but, for almost every offence, one common printed form might be prepared, leaving a large blank for the overt acts.

"These precautions for settling the charge, and regulating the evidence, seem likely to give to the prisoner the advantage

of certainty in the proceeding against him,

"The precautions for giving to him fair and proper judges need not be numerous, and would not depart much from

usual practice, and some of them might be as follows:

"First. The court to consist in capital cases of twelve military members, and in other cases of nine; and no sentence to be adjudged until the party shall have been declared guilty by two-thirds of the members. The chairman to have no voice, and the court not to adjourn for a longer time than from six in the evening to eight next morning; but to continue sitting—if possible—so as to close proceedings in the course

"It is obvious that by this arrangement this court is assimilated very much to the court of Lords Tryers in the case of a peer indicted during the prorogation or dissolution of Parliament; and, perhaps, more assimilated to the Scotch criminal courts actually now existing; for the military members, though nominally judges, would in reality be a jury, and the evidence would—as in Scotland—be reduced to paper.

"Secondly. No member under the age of twenty-one shall be capable of sitting on court-martial in any case on a person not military; nor any officer who shall not have been a commissioned officer for six years in the army or embodied militia.

"The first of these regulations conforms to the new Mutiny Act regulation, and by the latter it is proposed to exclude all young and uninformed officers whether army or militia; many of whom—particularly the army—are from the great demand for officers, very unfit for such a trust; and it excludes all yeomanry and volunteers, except those who may previously have served as commissioned officers six years in

the army or embodied militia.

"Thirdly. The power of issuing warrants for holding courts-martial on persons not military to be confined to the Lord Lieutenant in cases of capital charge; and, of course, the sentence to be reported and referred to him. That of appointing courts-martial in other cases to be limited to the Lord Lieutenant, to the Commander-in-Chief, and to the four senior general officers on the Irish staff commanding in districts. These sentences not to extend to life or limb; and the sentences to be referred to the General who shall have issued the warrant, in cases of sentence to imprisonment, or whipping, or fine; or of serving in the West Indies, or East Indies, or Africa, as soldiers for not more than ten years. But in cases of sentence for transportation for term of years or life, the proceedings to be referred for confirmation from the court to the Lord Licutenant.

"I do not pretend to convince you—what I do not feel myself—that this is the best of all possible tribunals; but I have turned various ideas in my mind and upon paper, and, upon the whole, I prefer grafting upon a system known in Ireland, and recognised by their law, such alterations as may assimilate that court as much as possible to other tribunals,

and their proceedings to the proceedings of our criminal courts; taking to the Crown the claim of putting the prisoner on trial by information or charge, and of naming the members, who are in fact the jury, under the full persuasion that common juries, from various circumstances, are, in these cases of insurrection, incompetent to their functions, which apply to society in a state of obedience to law. I likewise hope that some such regulations as I have stated will check all the horrible abuses of which I saw so much, and which I felt so sensibly whilst I was in Ireland, as to determine me, at all hazards, never to sit on such a tribunal, in cases not military.

"But again let me press you to relieve my mind from the pain I should feel if I fancied that you could pause on proclaiming Sligo, for I verily think that you will risk a general

rebellion in Ireland by pausing on that step."

LORD GRENVILLE tO EARL SPENCER.

1806, December 18. Downing Street.—"I enclose you the Duke of Bedford's two letters. I have already stated my wish that Marsden's object may not be pressed, at least not at this moment.

"There can be no objection to the Duke's three Baronets, but I confess I should like the list much better if it did include some two or three of the principal Catholic gentry; and I would suggest to you that it might [be] right to delay the receiving the King's pleasure on the list till you had mentioned this idea to the Duke." Copy.

Private. The Duke of Bedford to Lord Grenville.

1806, December 19. Phænix Park.—"By the mail which reached Dublin on the 12th instant I received the enclosed letter under your lordship's cover, and have delayed writing to you on the subject to which it relates, in the probability that I might before this have been apprized of your wishes

respecting it.

The enclosure to which Lord Dillon's letter has reference, did not come with it. I am therefore unable to give an opinion upon Colonel Dillon's report of the state of the country; but upon this head I beg leave to refer your lordship to my recent communications to Lord Spencer, and to the testimony of Lord Sligo who is now in London, and who is able to give you very correct information as to the particular part of the country alluded to by Lord Dillon.

"In respect to the corps of yeomanry offered to be raised by Lord Dillon, his lordship did certainly tender such an offer to my predecessor in the month of August, 1805, which was, under certain limitations, accepted by the Government. On the 21st of July, 1806, Mr. Wyatt, his lordship's agent, informed Mr. Edward Littlehales that he had completed the corps proposed to be raised by Lord Dillon; but as I had uniformly declined all proposals for augmenting that description of force, on account of the great extent of the yeomanry establishment, and the expense attending it; and especially as no communication had been made to the Government upon the subject for the period of cleven months, I did not feel myself at liberty to accept the corps then offered by Lord Dillon through his agent Mr. Wyatt.

"A resident nobility and gentry must at all times be a desirable circumstance in Ireland; but I must leave it to you to judge how far in the present circumstances of the country Lord Dillon's presence may be of advantage, when he manifests so evident a dissatisfaction at the conduct of the Irish

Administration."

Enclosure.

VISCOUNT DILLON to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 6. London.—"The high respect I have for your lordship induces me to enclose a letter I have this day received from my son. Your lordship will be so kind as to overlook any expression which was written in confidence; but from other persons I have likewise the most melancholy accounts of the situation in Ireland; and from my intimate knowledge of the country, I do not hesitate to declare that it is the same spirit and the same people who produced the late rebellion, and are now endeavouring to create another, aided by the French.

"About a year ago while I was in the country, upon a representation of the magistrates to me, I communicated with Lord Hardwicke, and offered to raise at my own expense a corps of yeomanry, by which I could have considerably checked this growing spirit of rebellion. Lord Hardwicke agreed to it, but the present Government of Ireland, when I had got the men (all which I could have relied on) ordered it to be dismissed. I am ready to go over or to do any thing your lordship may deem proper, to assist his Majesty's Government, as there is hardly any gentleman of weight or influence in any part of the country. Your lordship will, I hope, have the goodness to excuse my giving you this trouble in a matter which I conceive my duty and loyalty as much concerned as my private interest."

LORD GRENVILLE to EARL FITZWILLIAM.

1806, December 19.—"I shall have much satisfaction in appointing Mr. Buckworth to the vicarage of Dewsbury whenever the vacancy occurs; and I shall not fail to direct a note to be taken of your application respecting the living of Wakefield, in order that it may be taken into consideration when the vacancy occurs." Copy.

THE SAME to W. ELLIOT.

1806, December 20. Downing Street.—"I enclose a letter for the Attorney General which you will have the goodness

to deliver to him, and to enforce with such arguments as will naturally suggest themselves to you on a point which is really of much importance to us.

"You will hear from other quarters of the opening of our Parliament. The success was complete, and all we could wish

or desire.

"Pray consider once more the subject of Catholic recruiting for service in South America. We want the men; Ireland wants a vent for its superabundant population; could not

these two wants be reconciled?

"If a skeleton 2nd battalion or two were sent to Ireland, with authority to the Lord Lieutenant to recommend the ensigns from the sons of Roman Catholic gentry and yeomanry, and the lieutenants from officers in the Irish militia, and if three or four priests had assurances that on finding themselves in South America they should receive allowances there, and be permitted to officiate to the regiments, could not we in that way hope to complete a battalion, and afterwards more, in a shorter time than in any other?

"You will feel all the importance of the subject both to our force abroad and to your quiet in Ireland. Pray try to shape some such project (if there be any such practicable)

as may give these ideas a trial." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 21.—"I have received another [letter] from Mr. Barham containing the result of a conference which I desired him to have with Captain Layman. Captain Layman is willing to engage upon terms far short of those which he at first proposed, and such as it does not appear to me that there can be any difficulty of acceding to. If there should be any fair ground at the end of the service for refusing him his rank, he stipulates for 5,000l. which, by discharging the expenses of his outfit, and those accruing during the course of his voyage, would leave him as clear gain the 5,000l. which

he is to receive from Barham.

"I cannot but agree with Barham that, except on the ground of very strong objection to Layman, the request for rank in such circumstances is not more then may be fairly allowed to the private request of Mr. Barham himself, who is an independent man supporting Government with two seats. Certainly much more seems every day to be claimed by persons with far less pretensions, he being not only a man possessed of a vote but of very considerable talents. The measure itself is, however, of far more consideration, and I cannot think that we should be at all justified in putting by an opportunity of trying so important and promising an experiment, in circumstances of such advantage, either from a difficulty about complying with terms such as are now proposed, or for the sake of what we may learn from this experiment at Trinidad. A speedy decision is necessary,

because, though the plan may not be set aside by the delay of a few days, it may very likely happen that Barham, feeling much dissatisfied whether with or without reason, may have disposed of his seat differently from what he otherwise would. That, however, is a matter of much less consequence.

Postscript.—"You must recollect that the Trinidad scheme, and which will turn out, I suspect, a subject of considerable

blame, was undertaken in Lord Buckinghamshire's time."

LORD HENRY PETTY to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 22.—"General Fitzpatrick has just informed me that he has received the establishment from the Duke of York, and that the estimates will be prepared immediately.

"I think you may wish to be apprized of this, as it may spare you the trouble of seeing the Commander-in-Chief till we have received and examined these estimates, which General Fitzpatrick promises shall be sent to the Treasury before to-morrow evening."

LORD GRENVILLE to LORD AUCKLAND.

1806, December 24. Downing Street.—"Before we meet to-day pray look at the Acts 32, George 3rd, chap. 55, and 42 George 3rd, chap. 71, and see whether in your opinion the public creditors are entitled to anything more than the redemption of the debt within forty-five years from that period, as to all debt then existing; and in forty-five years

from the date of each subsequent loan respectively.

"If this be true, we shall want no consent for our plan; for, as (after deducting the excesses of sinking fund above the interest of debt) we shall, in twenty years, have eight millions sinking fund to fourteen millions debt, it is obvious that this, being more than five per cent. sinking fund, will pay off the capital in less than fourteen years; and therefore the whole will be paid off in less than thirty-four years from this time, and in less than thirty-eight from 1802." Copy.

THE SAME to W. WINDHAM.

1806, December 24. Downing Street.—"I do not think your interpretation of our minute would be admitted as correct

by any of those that acceded to it.

"Perhaps it would be better if your ideas were expressed without endeavouring to explain ours, as, in a matter where so much difficulty occurred to us in wording our own opinion, it can hardly be expected that a person not concurring in it should explain it in different words equally to our satisfaction.

"You will obscrive that your minute represents us at the same moment as considering the evidence against her Royal Highness as wholly unworthy of credit, and yet as attaching

to a part of it a credit which it does not deserve.

"The Lord Chancellor will not forward the minute till to-morrow night; there would therefore be time for you to make any alteration you may think fit in yours. I do not see that the form requires any." Copy.

W. WINDHAM to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 25.—"I cannot at all agree that the minute which I sent is liable to the objection which you make to it. It ean be of no consequence to what degree the meaning of any paper is mis-stated if the paper is there to speak for itself, and if care is taken to prevent the supposition that the interpretation given to it is founded on any admission of the parties. This was effectually done in the minute in question by my stating the conclusions to be 'what I conceived to be contained in the paper, either expressly or by implication.' The same observation will apply to the contradiction which you suppose me to have introduced; namely, that if it was founded upon my misconeeption, the error and blame would rest with me. There is in reality, however, in my opinion no contradiction at all. Bidgood's testimony on the original charge (if, as a witness adverse to the Princess, Bidgood entered into that part of the case at all) might be wholly undeserving of credit; yet on another part might have the credit that has been ascribed to it.

"It is not necessary however to discuss this, as I have changed the minute, removing, as I should conceive, even the

smallest cause of anxiety.

"It has been very awkward the writing any thing at all without having the original minute and the report before me, which have been taken back, I find, from the reading-room, and which from circumstances I was too late to get to-day from Lord Spencer. I trouble you with this, partly that you may be satisfied of there being nothing which can commit the opinion of the Cabinet, as indeed it is not easily possible that there should; and partly because, as it is now late, I might by sending it to the Chancellor be in danger of missing the messenger. Should anything happen to prevent either the messenger or what I now send from going to-night, I will beg of you to let me have it back again, as, on looking into the report and the other papers, which I would do to-morrow, something might occur to make a change desirable."

LORD GRENVILLE tO W. WINDHAM.

1806, December 26. Downing Street.—"Your letter with its enclosure did not reach me till after cleven last night, when it was too late to send it to the Chancellor. I have therefore, agreeably to your desire, returned your minute. Whenever you transmit it to the Chancellor he will, of course, forward it to Windsor.

"I have sent your letter about Captain Layman to Mr. Grenville. If he continues to think it wrong to give Captain Layman the eventual assurances he asks about his rank, I cannot press him to it; nor can I think that Barham's intimations as to the consequences of a refusal can weigh in such a case.

"I am not only willing but desirous that Barham's experiment should be fairly tried, and for that purpose will readily engage to give all reasonable pecuniary allowance to cover the expenses of the experiment, and to remunerate those whose time and talents are employed in it. But surely there never was a subject that had less to do with military rank." Copy.

EARL SPENCER to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 26. London.—"I enclose you a private letter I received last night from Elliot; the despatches from the Lord Lieutenant are gone to the King this morning, and

will be sent in circulation when they return.

"The evidence contained in them already proves that there is a great spirit of disaffection lurking in the north of Ireland; but whether it is sufficient to justify any such measure as a suspension of the *Habeas Corpus* Act I much doubt. The persons concerned appear to be quite of the lower classes, and no immediate connexion with the enemy is proved; but they certainly are ripe for any mischief whenever a fit opportunity shall offer.

"I am going to pass the morning at Wimbledon, but shall be back by dinner time; and, if you have any commands for

me, could wait upon you in the evening."

Private. W. Elliot to The Same.

1806, December 27. Dublin Castle.—"Though the packet is on the point of sailing, I cannot help writing a line to inform you that the Attorney General has, in the handsomest manner, consented to come into Parliament, and you will in the course of a post or two receive from him an answer to your letter.

"I bear in mind your suggestion on the subject of levies for service in South America; and you shall hear from me on this point, the moment I am prepared to communicate with

you on it."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, December 27. Palace Yard.—"Our friends, Messieurs Monroe and Pinkney, after thirty or forty very fatiguing discussions, have at last consented to accept the project, and have authorized me to prepare the copies for signature on Wednesday or Thursday next. We have made no further changes, except what were evident improvements, and chiefly in the commercial article on the subject of certain duties, in the result of a conference which I had this morning with Mr. Vansittart and Mr. Roe. Innumerable alterations were

proposed to us, and urged as far as was agreeable. On the whole I am not aware that we have done anything that is vulnerable, or open to any attack that may not with ease be resisted. And in the mean time the impression of a treaty being concluded, is of considerable importance. I think it highly material that you should assist Lord Holland in compleating his paper to be presented previous to our signature. If the manner in which our blockades are honourably and efficiently executed can be well contrasted in that paper with the wild proclamation and brutum-fulmen of Buonaparte's paper blockade (which he represents as a measure of retaliation) it would have a great and most useful effect; and is particularly desired by our American friends, who really seem at present to be Anti-Gallicans; and whom, at any rate, we should wish to be henceforth considered as embarked with us to every extent short of taking part in the war. They confided to us that they are going to send a minister to Paris to the American Minister there, to require an explanation of the Berlin Decree.

"I have postponed going to Blenheim till this treaty shall be signed, and also to attend your debate on Friday next,

though I cannot be wanted at it.

"I am exceedingly anxious to be satisfied that there is no misconception in the second and third columns of Mr. Harrison's paper. If they should prove indisputably correct, the measure will be astonishingly brilliant; and even if there should be the mistake which I suspect, though it may make a great difference, I do not see anything discouraging.

"You probably know that the Duke of Richmond is dying

or dead.'

W. WINDHAM to THE SAME.

1806, December 29. Beaconsfield.—" As I made some small alterations in the minute which you returned to me, before I sent it to the Chancellor, I enclose you a copy of it, in the form in which it finally went."

Enclosure.

MINUTE by MR. WINDHAM.

"Though I concur perfectly in what I conceive to be the opinion of the Cabinet, that, in the whole of the evidence which has been adduced against her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, nothing is found as affecting her Royal Highness which can be a fit subject for any legal proceeding; and that, with a view to the manifestation of his Majesty's personal sentiments and domestic feelings towards any part of the Royal Family, there is no advice which his Majesty's confidential servants can at this moment presume to offer to his Majesty; yet I am compelled to state my concurrence on these points in a separate minute, because, in the minute

which has been adopted, the opinion of the Cabinet on the specific charge originally brought against her Royal Highness is not distinctly set forth, but only conveyed by reference to the report of the Commissioners; and that I cannot assume, without the risk of interpreting the report in a sense different possibly from that which it may be intended to bear, that the opinion so conveyed is the same precisely with that which I am anxious to express, namely, that the charge originally brought against her Royal Highness is, as to part of it, directly disproved, and as to the remainder, rests on evidence which cannot entitle it to the smallest credit.

"I am further compelled to separate the statement of my opinions from that of the opinions of the Cabinet, because, among the conclusions of the Commissioners which the Cabinet adopts, there is one which seems to give to the evidence of Bidgood and others, on points not immediately connected with the original and specific charge against her Royal Highness, a degree of authority which I cannot consider it as

possessing."

Private. LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, December 29. Downing Street.—"The state of Ireland presses itself every day more and more upon my mind. The effects of the measures which you have adopted are, as far as relates to the present moment, highly gratifying and satisfactory, and I heartily congratulate you upon them. But we know that those effects are only temporary, and that there still remain in the country the disposition and the means for tumult and insurrection, and that the occasion only is waited for.

"This is exactly the state of things in which a Government is called upon to profit of the interval by such measures of

prevention as are within its power.

"I have already troubled you with some crude suggestions on the subject of tithes, one of the causes which operate the most to inflame the minds of the peasantry in Ireland, and to indispose the middling and even sometimes the higher classes.

"The only two other measures that occur to me are the facilitating the enlistment of Catholics into our army, and

the making provision for the Catholic clergy.

"The first of these is recommended by every consideration. We greatly want the supply which Ireland might afford to our recruiting; and Ireland wants such a vent for its population, being exactly in that stage of society which increases population without an adequate increase of the means of employment.

"That the object is desirable no one indeed can deny. How is it to be attained? I have had some discussion with the Duke of York on the subject, and he assures me of his

full disposition to co-operate in any practicable arrangement for it.

"New regiments to be entirely composed and officered from the Irish Roman Catholics are liable to the obvious objection that there are not in that body persons fit to hold field officers' or even captains' commissions; nor could they be brought into the army over the heads of the present officers.

"What seems to me best is this; to send one or two skeleton corps, or rather skeleton 2nd battalions, into the parts of Ireland where such a system might be most successful, there to recruit

their numbers.

"To appoint to the skeleton 2nd battalion (where the officers are all to be named) persons connected with the north-west and south-west provinces of Ireland, selecting officers of that description from the army now in Great Britain and Ireland, and also including in them some considerable proportion of officers known to be Catholic, of which there are

many in our army.

"To let it be understood and explained to the leading Catholics and Catholic clergy in those districts, that Government will engage to employ these corps, as soon as raised, in South America, where they will, of course, have the full benefit of free exercise of their religion. And that so long as we have troops serving in Catholic countries (which will probably be as long as the war lasts or longer) these levies

shall always be employed in those countries alone.

"As a further means of promoting the success of the levies, the Duke of York seemed perfectly ready to receive from your grace the recommendation of all the subaltern officers to be employed, and whom you would of course select from the sons of the Catholic gentry and higher orders of yeomanry or traders; or from the officers of the Catholic regiments of militia, there being no law in Ireland which prevents such persons from serving in the army up to the rank of general officers.

"And in order to secure the exertions of every class of officers so named in completing the corps, it would be proper to have recourse to the same expedient as has been adopted here; that of declaring that if a certain number of men be not raised within a given time, the 2nd battalion shall be reduced,

and the officers put on half pay.

"This is the best suggestion I can offer on the result of a good deal of discussion of the subject. It's success must, I am well aware, depend very much on the possibility of interesting the Catholic clergy and gentry in it. The latter is in some degree provided for; how the former can be done you will best judge; and on the whole scheme I hope you will let me have the advantage of your opinion and advice. Something of the sort does really seem as necessary to the peace of Ireland as to the general interests and military strength of the empire.

"If you can point out any field officers or captains fit to be selected for such corps, in the view above stated, I hope you

will have the goodness to do so.

"As to the provision for the Catholic clergy, the first question is what do they themselves think of it? At some former periods they have declared that they would not accept of such a boon if it were to be offered to them separately from the demands of the laity, lest by so doing they should lose all influence over their flocks. Is that their present feeling? If it is, all further discussion of the subject is useless. If not, pray tell me how far you think the adoption of such a measure would be useful at this time, and what plan you would recommend for it. I believe the details of what was formerly intended are all in Mr. Elliot's office." Copy.

The Marquis of Buckingham to Lord Grenville.

1806, December 29. Stowe.—"I have passed the whole of this day with Chaplin, methodising my proposed tax by stamp on all proceedings in court of Quarter-sessions, and on various proceedings out of court before magistrates. Chaplin has prepared an estimate from reference to the court books for 1803-4, and -5, of the actual amount of each article of duty; but there can be no very accurate estimate on many of the proceedings before magistrates. Our object therefore has been to regulate by stamp exact and correct appointments of constables, overseers, and churchwardens, to which we fix a five shilling stamp as their authority for making rates, and an ad valorem stamp on the confirmation of those rates by two magistrates; a matter in which much regulation of correct accuracy is wanted by the public as a guard upon fraud. We have struck out all stamps on matters where the poor have an immediate interest, and the result is a collection without the increase of a single officer—save that each Clerk of the Peace must be a stamp distributor for the stamps used in court—of above 100,000l. per annum, exclusive of the whole of what must arise in London, Westminster, and the very populous manufacturing counties and cities, over and above the calculation made on Buckinghamshire, which is neither manufacturing nor populous; and I send you a paper by which you will see how easily the tax (which is permanent for constables and overseers) falls even in Aylesbury, where these officers and their rates are more numerous than usual. The whole abstract shall be sent to you to-morrow by Chaplin, as it is now too late to make it out; and I shall send you in a few days the 'observations' upon the various articles. But Chaplin, who has worked very hard in this, requests that Mr. Harrison may see him, that he may hear any objections and restate them to me for further consideration. The only remuneration that is necessary is for the extra trouble and responsibility of the Clerks of the Peace, and they can easily be brought to think and speak in favour of your tax if they understand that they, giving proper security, will collect on the usual allowances the monies on proceedings in court. But you must employ some one to look to Scotch proceedings in their Quarter-sessions, for I know nothing of the course of them.

"Chaplin is likewise most anxious that you should raise your three guinea game licences to four guineas, and the addition of a half-guinea to the gamekeepers' certificates. He is confident that few would withdraw from the list next year, except, perhaps, some very few poor poachers, who now take out a licence; and he estimates this increase in Buckinghamshire 411l., and in England and Wales at 25,930l.

Every shilling of which is a voluntary tax.

"I am very glad to help your Budget by suggestions of which the first is so productive, and so light on individuals; for when I state 100,000l., I state only what can be ascertained; but, hitherto, various convictions and penalties are not accurately estimated. You may, however, call from the police officers for the number of convictions, and bastardy orders, and removals, as the magistrates' clerks receive the fees towards the fee fund."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, December 30. Palace Yard.—"The Committee of Council for Trade was well attended yesterday on the re-hearing of the West India planters and merchants and sugar refiners. In the final result we agreed to recommend to the Treasury:—

"(1) An increased drawback on the export of double refined sugar. This measure would in effect be no expense, and is thought likely to gain to us nearly the whole trade of that article (which now goes from Hamburgh) to Russia (about

8,000 hogsheads).

"(2) A bounty on a certain ratio of price upon the export of raw sugar. This measure might be an expense of 10 or 15,000l.; but on the last occasion, in 1802, it answered the purpose without expense, by quickening the sale and raising the prices.

'And it is demonstrable that some relief must be given,

otherwise you will have many bankruptcies.

"If the above measures should be adopted it is material for evident reasons, that we should previously sign the American treaty; because if we increase our drawback, and oblige America to diminish greatly her drawback on the article, an unpleasant argument may arise. Still, as our measure is merely temporary to get rid of a pressure of 90,000 hogsheads, it is fair.

"(3) We have reserved the point of classing the sugar and imposing the duty ad valorem. It is much urged, but I believe it to be utterly impracticable without too great a

sacrifice of revenue.

"(4) We have referred the question of employing molasses and sugar in the breweries and distilleries to a select committee of the House of Commons.

"When you have decided about Sir John Nicholl's paper

I shall be glad to know.

"I hope that the finance plan (quod rerum omnium est primum) is advancing to perfection. I cannot help thinking that it may be simplified much and be quite feasible. I wish before I go to Blenheim that you could enable me to say something about poor Lord Charles.

"Mr. Corry is desirous to be of the Board of Trade. It might be eventually useful in the House of Commons in such a variety of Bills; and I suppose Sir John Newport would

not object."

Private. EARL TEMPLE to LORD GRENVILLE.

1806, December 31. London.—"It is very possible that you may be aware of my information; in case you are not, however, I think it right to say that I have very strong reasons to believe that Lord Yarmouth is jealous, and not well pleased upon some points connected with the negotiation papers; inasmuch that I cannot but think that it is very material he should be talked to, and have his lesson set him, before the discussion. If this is neglected, he may fight loose and do mischief. We had an escape this evening. It is very probable Lord Howick has set all this right with him. I am not, however, quite sure that he is aware of the fact of his being discontented, and therefore may not have taken precautions. Can you name a day between this and Monday when I can dine with you?"

Postscript.—"In confidence I can tell you that I had my information from one with whom Lord Yarmouth conversed

last night upon the subject."

Private. VISCOUNT HOWICK to THE SAME,

1806, December 31. Stratton Street.—"I have been thinking about the blue ribbons, and though nobody can have personally a greater regard than I have for the Duke of Bedford, or think more highly of the merit of his public conduct in Ireland, I confess that I am very anxious that the second should be offered simply to Lord Fitzwilliam. I believe there is no man living who cares less about distinctions of this kind. I am sure if he had a suspicion that it was wished for the Duke of Bedford he would immediately decline it; and I think it very probable that he will do so in any case. But this does not make me the less desirous that an attention should be shown him which he has so well deserved. His age and his well established claims on Government cannot allow the Duke of Bedford to think that he is improperly passed by;

and I have very little doubt that he, as well as myself, would be much gratified by seeing this distinction conferred on one of Fox's oldest personal friends."

LORD AUCKLAND to THE SAME.

1806, December 31. Palace Yard.—"I am happy to inform you that, after a further discussion of about four hours, the American ministers at last accepted the American treaty in the form and tenor proposed to them, and we have signed accordingly. It is certainly an important consideration in our relative position on the globe, in the actual predicament of the war; and it is very desirable to shew any collateral attentions, both personal and national, that give both substance and colour to this declared friendship."

LORD GRENVILLE to the DUKE OF BEDFORD.

1806, [December].—"Your Grace's despatch has been considered by his Majesty's servants with all the attention due to the extreme importance of the subject to which it relates. And it is in conformity to their opinion, humbly submitted to his Majesty, that I am now authorized to transmit to your grace the following instructions for the regulation of any communications which your grace, or Mr. Elliot, may hold on this business with any of the King's Catholic subjects in Ireland.

"It will be in your grace's recollection that a petition was, in the session before the last, presented to the two Houses of Parliament on behalf of the Irish Catholics, with a view to a farther extension of the privileges which have been granted to them at different periods during his Majesty's reign. subject was on that occasion fully and deliberately discussed. The opinions of many of the persons whom his Majesty has since been pleased to call to his councils were, as is well known, declared to be entirely in favour of the measure, as one which would, in their judgment, essentially promote the safety and prosperity of the empire, and contribute to the preservation of its established constitution both in church and state. But it cannot be disputed that the general sense of Parliament, as manifested in both Houses, was decidedly adverse to the concessions which were then in view. His Majesty's servants, whatever may be the individual opinions which they respectively hold as to the merits of the question, see no reason to believe that any such change has in this short interval taken place as to afford the smallest probability that it could, at this time, be successfully proposed to Parliament. And they are unanimously of opinion that, without such hope, the renewal of this question within so short a period after it has been solemnly considered and decided, can tend to no public good, and is not likely to promote either the general

advantage of the empire or the particular interests of that class of the King's subjects to whom it more immediately relates.

"His Majesty's servants also feel an insuperable objection to any idea of offering, as the price of forbearance in this respect, any part of those indulgencies which, on other grounds, they have judged it advisable to submit to his Majesty as proper to be now proposed to Parliament. Before they had been apprised of any of the recent discussions which have taken place in Ireland, they had already had under their consideration the inconvenient and contradictory provisions of the present laws, in so far as they affect the King's Catholic subjects in Ireland with respect to employment in his Majesty's

naval and military forces.

"Your grace is well aware that at the time when his Majesty was graciously pleased to recommend to the consideration of the Irish Parliament the situation of his Catholic subjects, it was intended that these professions should be opened to them universally, and under such restrictions only as are expressed in the Irish Act of Parliament 32 Geo. III. And this intention was openly held to them, and was declared in the two Houses of Parliament by the late Earl of Clare, then Lord Chancellor, and the present Earl of Buckinghamshire, then secretary to the Lord Lieutenant. But the effect of the Irish Act of Parliament which was passed for this purpose could only go to the removal of the restrictions and obstacles then existing in that kingdom. It could not operate in Great Britain, and no similar Act having been proposed here, the consequence is that in the two parts of the United Kingdom the law is totally different in this respect. And that while in Ireland, where alone, if there were any danger from the employment of Catholic officers, that danger could be felt, the King's subjects of all descriptions are capable of holding any military commission whatever, except that of a general on the staff; in Great Britain, where certainly no such danger can exist, and where the whole country is decidedly Protestant, not even the lowest commission can legally be held by a Catholic officer; a circumstance leading to this intolerable absurdity, that either the intentions of Parliament must be wholly frustrated, and the Irish Catholic gentry remain excluded from the army; or else that a regiment legally officered in Ireland cannot be ordered from thence to this part of the United Kingdom, even in a moment of the most urgent danger, without exposing many of its officers to the necessity of either violating the laws or quitting the service in which they have been educated, and to which possibly the greater part of their lives has been devoted.

"In addition to these two considerations, of the faith of Government positively pledged, and of the manifest incongruity of the present system, his Majesty's servants are impressed with a sense of the great advantage of enabling all the King's subjects to contribute equally in this moment of common danger to the military defence of every part of the empire; and of affording to the sons of the gentry of Ireland the means of displaying, in the cause of the United Kingdom, those military talents by which they have in all ages been distinguished; and of sharing both in the dangers and the glory of that great contest in which we are now embarked.

"On these grounds it is that his Majesty's servants have resolved that in the Mutiny Bill to be this year proposed to Parliament, a clause should be offered for enabling his Majesty, whenever he shall deem it advisable, to confer any military commission whatever on any of his liege subjects; such commission to be lawfully exercised in all places within or without the empire, and under no other condition than that of taking such oath of allegiance and fidelity as shall be provided in order to secure their attachment to his Majesty's royal person, family, and government, and to the established constitution of this United Kingdom. And another clause will in that case become necessary, in order to give to all his Majesty's subjects, however employed in any of his forces, a legal right to that full toleration as to the exercise of their religious profession which, by the practice of the army and by the just and liberal orders by which it is governed, they now enjoy; but for which it would unquestionably be proper that they should have the security of the laws.

"These regulations, if adopted, must of course, in order to their continuance, be annually renewed by Parliament; which would thus be every year enabled to meet any inconvenience to which they could by any possibility give rise. But his Majesty's servants feel the fullest confidence that they would, on the contrary, be, in every possible view of the subject, productive of the greatest benefit to the public service.

"This intention your grace is therefore authorized to announce to any of the King's Catholic subjects with whom you may communicate, as a step taken from the views of justice and policy which so manifestly recommend it. But, as I have before explained, it is judged highly important that you should declare that it is not adopted in any view of compromise, or with any purpose of thereby obtaining the abandonment of any intended or projected petition to Parliament; a measure which the King's servants think highly unadvisable, but which they would not endeavour to avert by partial concessions.

"The objection to the proposal of opening to the Catholics by Act of Parliament the office of sheriff, will obviously appear from what has been already said. This could not be done without a full agitation in Parliament of the whole subject. In the view of those who think it would be expedient to do much more, such a measure could not but appear inadequate and even futile; by others it would be thought objectionable as a fresh concession called for by no obvious or apparent necessity. It could satisfy no one; and it would produce all the mischief attendant on a hostile discussion of the claims and wishes of the Catholics.

"With respect to the admission of Catholics into corporations, the king's servants are not aware of any law existing in Ireland by which they are now excluded; nor consequently does it appear in what manner, or to what effect, the inter-

ference of Government is wished for on the subject.

"In so far as relates to the execution of existing laws, your grace is already fully apprised of the anxious desire which the King's servants entertain that the Irish Catholics should practically enjoy all the advantages to which his Majesty's gracious recommendations, and the liberality of Parliament, have successively entitled them. And I am too well acquainted with the perfect conformity of opinion which prevails in this respect between your grace and the King's servants here, not to be quite certain that the whole tenor of your grace's conduct has been in perfect conformity to this principle; and has already impressed on the minds of all temperate and reasonable men the fullest conviction that such is the rule by which the King's government in Ireland is administered." Draft.

APPENDIX.

The JOURNAL of M. DE GENTZ,

Journal de ce qui m'est arrivé de plus marquant dans le voyage que j'ai fait au quartier-général de sa majésté le Roi de Prusse, le 2d'Octobre, 1806, et jours suivants.

Parti de Dresde jeudi 2 Octobre, je suis arrivé au quartiergénéral de Nauembourg vendredi 3, à onze heures du matin. La ville était remplie de monde. Le roi avec toute sa suite militaire; la reine accompagnée de sa grande maitresse, et deux dames d'honneur; une quantité de princes, de généraux, et d'officiers de tout grade, et de personnages diplomatiques et autres s'y trouvaient réunis. Je ne citerai ici que l'Electeur de Hesse, arrivé la veille; le Duc de Brunswick; les princes frères du roi: le Prince d'Orange; le Duc de Weimar; le Prince Paul de Wirtemberg entré récemment au service Prussien, le Maréchal Möllendorff, le Général Kalkreuth, les deux Ministres du Cabinet Comte de Haugwiz et Marquis de Lucchesini, les deux Conseillers du Cabinet Lombard et Beyme, le Comte Görtz Ministre de Saxe, le Baron de Waitz Ministre de Hesse, le Prince Witgenstein Ministre de Prusse à Cassel, M. de Schladen Ministre de Prusse à Munich. En fait de troupcs, les deux premiers bataillons de la garde à pied se trouvaient seuls à Nauembourg. Tout le reste de l'armée s'était porté en avant, et le quartier-général devait être transféré à Erfurth le lendemain.

Aussitot que le Comte de Haugwiz sut mon arrivée, il me fit prier de passer chez lui. Il m'accueillit de la manière la

plus affectueuse; il me dit:

"Depuis que nous nous sommes vus la dernière fois, " (c'était le 6 Octobre, 1805, à Vienne) il s'est passé bien des "choses; vous n'avez pas été trop content de moi; je le "sais bien, je sais aussi que vous ne pouviez pas l'être; "mais lorsque vous serez mieux instruit, vous changerez "d'opinion. En tout cas vous n'aurez pas à regretter de " vous avoir rendu à mon invitation, et d'être venu ici dans "une conjoncture aussi intéressante. Mon intention est de "vous mettre au fait de tout. J'ai beaucoup de choses à "vous demander, mais je ne vous demanderai rien, avant " que vous ne soyez convaincu de la pureté de nos vues, et " de la sagesse de notre marche. Le moment décisif est venu. "Déjà la guerre de plume a commencé; celle du canon ne se "fera pas attendre; car nous venons d'apprendre que "Napoléon est à Wurtzbourg. Pour à présent, j'attends "chaque minute un message du Roi qui doit m'appeller à "un conseil, mais j'espére qu'avant le soir nous aurons une "conversation plus suivie."

Un moment après, il fut effectivement appelé chez le Roi. Il s'y tint un conseil militaire qui dura fort longtems. Pendant tout le reste de la journée on parut entièrement occupé de négociations et de pourparlers avec l'Electeur de Hesse, lequel, quoique toujours attaché à la Prusse, avait depuis quelques semaines modéré sa première ferveur, et capitulait sur les moyens et la forme de son accession. Je n'étais pas encore assez instruit pour juger des véritables rapports entre ce prince et la Prusse. Je sus seulement qu'on lui avait offert, et qu'il avait accepté le commandement en chef de l'aile droite de l'armée Prussienne; qu'il retournait à Cassel dans la nuit, et qu'on prétendait être content de lui. Ne sachant pas quels étaient proprement les projets qu'on pouvait avoir formés sur moi, je crus prudent d'attendre tranquillement l'invitation ultérieure du Comte de Haugwiz, et de ne voir personne jusques-là. J'aurais fait une seule exception pour M. le Duc de Weimar, qui demeurait tout à coté de moi: mais j'en fus instruit trop tard, et il était parti lorsque je voulus me rendre chez lui: je n'ai jamais pu le

rejoindre ensuite.

Ce ne fut que vers dix heures du soir que le Comte de Haugwiz envoya chez moi le conseiller privé Le Coq, son premier secretaire, pour me faire ses excuses, et me prier de venir chez lui. Je le trouvai au milieu des papiers, singulièrement échauffé et accablé. Il me dit: "vous voyez "comme on m'arrange aujourdhui. Je ne serai pas libre "avant deux heures du matin; mais nous allons demain à "Erfurth, oû tout prendra une autre assiette. J'espère que "vous ne me refuserez pas de nous y accomagner." Je n'étais pas préparé à cette proposition; je m'étais attendu à être expédié dans un jour ou deux; et dans l'ignorance parfaite sur l'objet dont il s'agissait proprement pour moi, je ne me souciais pas trop que mon voyage trainât en longueur. Je témoignai quelque répugnance; je n'hésitai pas à déclarer au Comte de Haugwiz, qu'à moins qu'il n'eût besoin de moi quelque affaire particulièrement importante, je n'aimerais pas à prolonger ma course. Il me répondit du ton le plus animé: "l'objet pour lequel j'ai désiré de vous voir "est le plus important qu'il soit possible d'imaginer; c'est "l'intérêt et le succès de nôtre entreprisc. Il est impossible " que vous nous quittiez avant que j'aie entamé seulement "ce que j'ai à vous dire. Je réponds d'ailleurs de tout. "sais qu'on sera content à Vienne de ce que vous ferez ici. "Jamais vous n'aurez rendu à la cause générale un service "plus essenticl; j'aurai soin de vos chevaux, de votre "logement, de tout. Si nous nous manquons demain à "Weimar, où je ne compte pas m'arrêter, nous nous verrons "à Erfurth après demain." Ces paroles, ct l'idée qu' effectivement j'avais fait le voyage en pure perte si je ne m'y rendais pas, me déterminèrent.

Samedi 4 Octobre. Je suis parti de Nauembourg à sept heures du matin. La route de là à Auerstadt présentait un des spectacles les plus solemnels que j'aie rencontré de ma vie. Le Roi et la Reine dans une berline fermée, suivie d'une vingtaine de voitures, précédées, entourées de toutes parts d'une quantité de troupes, de pièces d'artillerie, de chariots de train. Le coup d'oeil fut surtout superbe au moment où tout ce cortège passa le pont de la Saline de Kösen, et les hauteurs qui dominaient cet endroit. La réflexion que ces souverains allaient au devant d'un combat dont le succès pouvait changer la face de l'Europe, mais dont l'issue contraire, en les ruinant, detruirait la dernière chance de salut pour tant de pays et de peuples, rendait cette marche en même tems imposante, et lugubre. Le Roi ne s'arrêta point à Auerstadt, mais le Comte de Haugwiz y passa unc heure, et me fit déjeuner avec lui, le Prince de Witgenstein, et le Général de Kalkreuth, dont le quartier-général se trouvait ce jour-là à Auerstadt. Il n'y avait pas assez de chevaux; il fallait en faire venir. Le Comte de Haugwiz partit donc avant moi, et me recommanda en partant au Général Kalkreuth, circonstance que je n'eus pas à regretter, puisqu'elle me fit passer cinq heures avec un des hommes les plus marquants de l'armée.

Je crois que c'est ici le moment de dire en peu de mots quelle était, lors de mon arrivée au quarticr-général, l'idée que je m'étais formée de l'entreprise de la Prusse. J'avais été comme tout le monde frappé de la révolution subite qui s'était opérée dans le systême de la Cour de Berlin. Comme tout le monde, j'avais été, pendant quelque tems, incrédule sur la sincérité et la réalité de cette révolution. Mais déjà, plusieurs semaines avant mon départ de Dresde, j'avais eu des raisons péremptoires pour mettre fin à mes doutes à cet égard. Depuis cette époque je m'étais plus d'une fois livré à l'examen de la sagesse du projet que je voyais se développer sous mes jeux. Quoiqu'aussi instruit qu'il fut possible de l'être à Dresde, je ne crus pas avoir toutes les données nécessaires pour fixer mon jugement. Cependant en réunissant celles dont je me trouvais en possession, j'en vins bientôt à me persuader que le moment choisi pour cette levée de bouclier inattendue n'était pas, à beaucoup près, un moment convenable ou propice. Que la Prusse, en guerre avec l'Angleterre, en guerre avec la Suède, devant prévoir que l'Autriche, dont elle n'avait rien à se promettre sous le rapport d'une reciprocité de services, ne s'exposcrait pas à de nouveaux dangers pour partager les premiers coups d'une guerre qui semblait comme tombée des nues, ne pouvait compter au fond que sur la Russie, dont le secours, quelque respectable qu'il pût être, se trouvait considérablement affaibli par la position de l'ennemi à combattre : que n'ayant pas même invoqué ce secours assez tôt pour en jouir à l'ouverture de la campagne, elle y entrait sans aucun allié

(car je ne comptais pas la Hesse et la Saxe, que je regardais simplement comme des branches collatérales de la puissance Prussienne, et dont l'assistance d'ailleurs était balancée, et plus que balancée par la nécessité de défendre leurs pays); elle se précipitait toute seule dans une arêne oû tant d'autres avaient succombé avant elle. Enfin qu'il fallait des motifs plus forts, mais surtout plus puissans, que ceux que je connaissais alors (et je n'imaginais pas qu'il ne m'en restât guères à connaitre) pour justifier une révolution pareille. comme j'envisageais déjà le mérite politique de cette Quant à celui de sa composition militaire il m'était impossible de déterminer à quel point il couvrait ou rélevait la défectuosité fondamentale du projet. Je partageais toutefois l'opinion généralement favorable qu'une quantité de juges compétens nourrissaient des moyens militaires de la Prusse. Ce que j'en avais vu ou entendu à Dresde n'avait pas pu me décourager. Le Prince Louis, le Prince de Hohenloe, le Général Gravat, le Comte de Tauentzien, le Comte Gortze, et une quantité d'officiers d'un rang moins élevé mais du plus grand mérite personnel, m'avaient inspiré beaucoup de confiance. En jugeant les dispositions de l'armée d'après celles que je voyais en eux, je devais les croire excellentes. Pour ce qui était du plan de campagne, et de la direction centrale des opèrations, ils en étaient trop éloignés eux-mèmes pour me communiquer des notions bien correctes. C'était principalement sous ce rapport-là que j'avais besoin d'éclaircissemens; mais les premiers que j'obtins au quartier-général n'étaient pas faits pour me tranquilliser. Le Général Kalkreuth, premier en grade après les Maréchaux, commandait la seconde ligne, ou reserve du centre, ou ce qu'on appellait communément l'armée du Roi. Cette ligne n'était presque composée que de regiments d'élite, tels que les gardes, le régiment du Roi, celui des gardes du corps, celui des gens d'armes, celui des dragons de la Reine. L'ancienne réputation de ce général, et les actions brillantes du reste de sa vie, l'avaient peut-être fait espérer une place plus directement active. Je m'apperçus bientôt que le mécontentement et l'humeur, joints à une tournure d'esprit naturellement caustique et persifflante, influaient sur ses opinions; mais elles ne m'en parurent pas moins mériter la plus grande attention.

La première heure de ma conversation avec lui se passa en réflexions générales. Voyant que j'étais suffisamment instruit sur beaucoup de points intéressans, il se livra avec plus de franchise, et à la fin, entrainé par la mienne, il s'ouvrit avec moi sans réserve. Il me dit : "que personne "n'avait plus désiré que lui une guerre avec la France; que "personne n'en avait plus reconnu la nécessité; mais "qu'aujourdhui, personne ne serait plus enchanté qu'il se "trouvât un moyen honorable d'en prévenir l'explosion; "que, de la manière dont les choses étaient préparées, cette "guerre ne pouvait pas réussir; et que, sans un bonheur presque

"fabuleux, elle conduirait aux plus tristes résultats; qu'il "n'aurait pas perdu l'espérance, si le Roi n'avait pas quitté "le projet de commander l'armée en personne, en consultant "ceux des généraux qui jouissaient de la confiance de "l'armée; qu'avec un souverain auquel la nature n'avait "pas accordé un génie militaire éminent, un arrangement pareil aurait été, si non le meilleur à désirer, du moins le "meilleur possible; que telle avait été l'attente générale "jusqu'à une époque fort avancée; que le dix-huit Septembre encore le Roi avait positivement nourri ce plan; et qu'il "l'avait même clairement annoncé, en appellant auprès de "lui le général Zastrow, pour en faire le chef de son état-"major: que ce ne fut qu'au moment de l'arrivée de ce "générial à Nauembourg, que tout changea subitement de "face; qu'alors éclata tout-à-coup l'effet des sourdes intrigues "que le Duc de Brunswick, absolument mis de coté pendant "tout le tems que l'armée s'était rassemblée, et son partisan "aveugle le Colonel Kleist, aide-de-camp général du Roi, "avaient trainés sans interruption; que profitant de la "timidité et des scrupules du Roi qui craignait trop de se "charger tout seul de la responsabilité du commandément en "chef, Kleist lui avait suggéré d'inviter le Duc, malgré la "feinte répugnance qu'affichait celui-ci pour la chose; " qu'une fois en train, on ne s'était pas contenté de lui confier "la direction suprême de l'armée, mais qu'on avait souscrit "encore à toutes les conditions que le Duc y avait attachées "lui-même: que depuis ce funeste moment tout était "derangé et bouleversé: que le Roi n'était plus qu'un "volontaire étranger dans son armée; que personne n'était "consulté sur rien; que le maréchal Möllendorff, le seul "général que le Duc avait l'air d'admettre à sa confiance, "n'était que l'echo de sa volonté, puisqu'il n'en avait plus "aucune à lui-mêmê: qu'un soidisant Bureau de l'Etat-"Major, établi sous la direction d'un Colonel Hanovrien, "exerçait sur l'armée une tyrannie aussi odieuse que ridicule; " que les idées fantasques de ce Bureau guidait tout; que "l'expérience n'était plus comptée pour rien." Puis animé par ma surprise et mes questions à ajouter les derniers traits à ce tableau, il me déclara tout nct, que le Duc de Brunswick était un homme incapable de commander; qu'il n'avait ni les vues assez étendues, ni le caractère assez vigoureux pour remplir une tâche aussi grande; que sa petitesse, son irrésolution, sa fausseté, son hypocrisie, sa vanité, sa jalousie excessive gaterait la meilleure affaire; que quelle que fût la bonté des troupes et l'esprit qu'animait les officiers, ces avantages ne contrebalanceraient jamais l'inconvénient extrême d'un tel homme général-en-chef: que l'armée n'avait aucune espéce de confiance dans le Duc, n'en aurait jamais, et ne pouvait pas en avoir; que quant à lui, prêt à faire son devoir, et à se sacrifier jusqu'au dernier instant, il ne se dissimulait plus, et me priait de me souvenir de sa prédiction, que si avant

huit jours, terme oû les opérations devaient avoir commencé, il ne se présentait pas quelque incident fortuné qui changeât l'état actuel des choses, cette campagne finirait, ou par une rétraite dans le genre de celle de 1792, ou par quelque catastrophe

mémorable qui ferait oublier la bataille d'Austerlitz.

Rélativement au plan de la guerre, il me dit une quantité de choses qui me parurent très justes et lumineuses. Malgré que le Roi, et le Duc de Brunswick, et le Comte de Haugwiz n'eussent fait rétentir depuis quelques jours que la nécessité de prendre l'offensive, et de marcher en force sur l'ennemi, rien n'était plus absurde que ces propos; puisque non seulement rien n'y répondait dans les mésures, mais que, de plus, le moment d'une guerre offensive était déjà passé sans retour. Si on voulait l'entreprendre maintenant, on rencontrerait dans tous les cas l'ennemi en sortant des gorges de la forêt de Thuringue; et quelqu'avantageux qu'il eut été d'avoir derrière soi, à huit ou dix lieues de distance, des positions respectables comme celles-ci; ce serait la plus grande folie de s'engager au pied même de ces montagnes, qui dans le cas du moindre revers entraveraient jusqu' à la retraite, et rendraient le désordré général. Il ne restait donc plus qu'une campagne soit-disant défensive, inutile pour l'objet de la guerre, hérissée d'inconvénients et de dangers. Qu'ainsi l'avaient voulu les personnes dont l'imprudence déplorable avait déterminé le Roi à se mettre en campagne cette année-ci. On aurait du attendre le printems; on n'aurait pas du frapper un coup sans avoir ou positivement engagé l'Autriche à faire cause commune avec eux, ou obtenu une armée de 100,000 Russes, qui en défilant par la Silésie et la Lusau sur le haut Palatinat, aurait occupé la moitié des forces Françaises sur le Danube, tandis que les Prussiens se seraient portés contre le Rhin.

Il mêla souvent des plaisanterics amères à ses observations. En parlant de l'ascendant que l'esprit des innovations et les chimères de quelques écrivains à la mode avaient gagné dans l'armée Prussienne; et à quel point l'ancien caractère et l'ancienne discipline en avaient été dénaturés, il dit que, par la plus grande des bisarreries, c'était proprement de la Hausvogtig (prison publique) de Berlin que partaient aujourd'hui les ordres qui dirigaient les opérations militaires, puisque le trop fastueux Bülow, quoique enfermée dans cette prison, n'en continuait pas moins à être le plus grand oracle de

tous les faiscurs.

Cette conversation ne fut interrompu que spar le diner, auquel assistaient, entre plusieurs officiers d'ordonnance, les cinq aides-de-camp du Général Kalkreuth, tous hommes d'esprit et de mérite. C'était le Major Kalkreuth son neveu, le Major de Ziethen, le Major de Losson, le Capitaine de Wothke, et un Lieutenant d'Arnim des dragons. La manière dont on y parla de l'état des choses était, naturellement, beaucoup plus réservé; mais la méfiance et les inquiétudes n'en percèrent pas moins à travers les sentimens les plus

courageux. Enfin, cette première leçon etait plus qu'il ne m'en aurait fallu pour m'éclairer sur mes doutes, et pour fixer mes incertitudes. L'aigreur personelle du Général, d'anciens ressentimens, l'amour-propre blessé pouvaient avoir eu leur part dans ses confidences; mais les argumens solides et irrésistibles dont il avait appuyé la plus grande partie de ses griefs, avaient fait sur moi une impression profonde que

rien n'a pu effacer depuis.

J'ai quitté Auerstadt à quatre heures, et suis arrivé à Weimar très tard. J'ai été obligé d'y passer la nuit. Le Duc était allé à Gotha. Les inquiétudes de la Duchesse paraissaient se concentrer toutes sur son fils cadet, le Prince Bernard, qui à l'age de 16 ans, et d'une constitution très délicate, avait demandé de servir comme volontaire au corps du Prince de Hohenloe, et que j'avais vu partir de Dresde le jour de mon propre départ. J'en rendis compte à la Duchesse. Elle s'exprima à cette occasion d'une manière infiniment estimable, et bien conforme au grand caractère qu'elle a montrée peu de jours après, au milieu des plus horribles catastrophes.

Dimanche 5 Octobre. Je suis parti de Weimar à 9 heures, et arrivé à Erfurth à midi. J'y ai retrouvé tout ce qui était à Nauembourg, et, de plus, les chefs et états-majors de tous les corps qui composaient le centre de l'armée. On évaluait à 2,000 le nombre des personnes de tout grade attachées au quartier-général, sans compter les troupes et baggages qui

passaient et repassaient sans cesse.

Voici quelle était, le 5 Octobre, la distribution des corps et des commandemens. Le Duc de Brunswick dirigeait le tout. Sous lui, la première ligne du centre, occupant les environs d'Erfurth, était commandé par le Marechal Möllendorff. La seconde ou reserve du centre, placée entre Auerstadt et Weimar, par le Général Kalkreuth. Le Marechal avait sous lui; au centre le Lieutenant Général de Wartensleben; à l'aile droite le Prince d'Orange, dont le corps s'étendait entre Gotha et Eisenach; à l'aile gauche le Lieutenant Général de Schmettau, occupant le terrein entre Erfurth et Blankenhayn. L'avant garde du centre était sous les ordres du Duc de Weimar, et du Duc de Brunswick-Oels. Elle occupait les gorges de la forêt de Thuringue, entre Arnstadt et Illemenau : et poussait ses avant postes vers Meiningen et Hildburghausen. La grande aile droite de l'armée, placée (pour la forme) sous le commandement de l'Electeur de Hesse, était commandeé en effet, par les Lieutenants-Généraux Rüchel et Blücher: elle se trouvait depuis quelques jours sur la Verra, et communiquait après avec l'extrémité droite du centre par Bercka et Eisenach. La grande aile gauche avait pour chef le Prince de Hohenloe, qui avait sous lui le Prince Louis de Prusse à l'avant-garde, le Général Tauentzien à l'extrémité gauche, et le Lieutenant-Général Gravat à l'extrémité droite. Le Prince de Hohenloe avait encore son quartier-général à Jena.

Prince Louis était à Rudelstadt avec 7,000 hommes, le Comte Tauentzien à Hoff avec 6,000. On évaluait communément toutes ces forces réunies à 150, quelque fois même à 170,000 hommes, parmi lesquels 20 à 25,000 Saxons. A en juger, cependant, d'après les avis de ceux que j'eus lieu de croire les plus instruits, elles ne se montaient point à ce nombre, et composaient dans la réalité un ensemble de 130,000 combattants; auquel, pour connaitre tout ce qui se trouvait de troupes sur le théâtre de la guerre, il fallait ajouter le corps du Général Le Coq, composé d'environ 8,000 hommes, qui se trouvait du coté de Munster; et le corps de réserve du Prince Eugene de Wirtemberg fut de 12 à 15,000 hommes, qui venait de recevoir l'ordre de se porter sur Halle à marches forcés.

On m'avait préparé à Erfurth un des plus jolis logements de la ville, faveur distinguée dans les circonstances du moment. Le Comte de Haugwiz m'a invité à diner. C'est là que, pour la première fois, j'ai vu M. le Marquis de Lucchesini, qui était parti de Nauembourg le jour de mon arrivée; et qui m'a reçu avec une tendresse toute particulière. Le diner fini, le Comte de Haugwiz a passé avec moi dans une chambre attenante, où nous avons eu une conversation qui a duré deux heures et demi. Cette conversation ayant été à plusieurs égards la base de toutes les communications qui m'ont été faites à Erfurth, je tacherai de le rendre ici le plus exactement

possible.

Quant au préambule je n'en citerai que quelques phrases saillantes; mettant de coté une quantité de choses polies qui n'étaient que pour mon propre comte. Le Comte de Haugwiz m'a dit entr'autres: "Je vois votre étonnement de vous "trouver ici. Ma proposition que je vous ai faite par ordre "exprès du Roi, vous aura suggéré bien des conjectures. Le "fait est, qu'il s'agissait de gagner votre opinion en faveur "de notre entreprise; des objets particuliers pour lesquells je "vous demanderai votre avis, quelqu'importans qu'ils puissent "être en eux-mêmes, ne sont cependant que des accessoires. "Le principal c'est que vous soyez notre ami; et vous le serez, "i'en suis sôn auguitêt que in me serei avaligné"."

"j'en suis sûr, aussitôt que je me serai expliqué."
Après cette introduction, il a continué ainsi: "vous con"naissez les reproches nombreux dont on nous a accablés
"depuis quelque tems, sur la prétendue duplicité de notre
"conduite. S'il est jamais existé une puissance que nous
"ayons eu l'intention de tromper c'était la France. La
"nécessité nous en avait fait la loi. Nous avons constamment
"voulu le bien de toutes les autres. Depuis long tems nous
"étions convaincus que la paix et Napoléon étaient deux
"objets contradictoires. Un simulacre de paix, voilà tout
"ce que nous pouvions maintenir. Cette situation équivoque
"s'est prolongée par deux raisons puissantes: d'abord,
"parceque le Roi, trop fortement prononcé contre toute idée
"de guerre, se flattait, d'année en année, que par quelque

"évènement heureux qui culbuterait ce pouvoir colossal aussi "rapidement qu'il s'était élevé, nous serions dispensé d'en "venir à une lutte difficile et dangcreuse, dans laquelle il ne "désirait s'engager qu' à la dernière extrémité: et ensuite, "parcequ'après tous les malheurs que nos amis avaient éprouvés autour de nous, il nous paraissait sage et nécessaire "de ménager l'Europe aux abois une dernière ressource "intacte. Cependant vous nous avez vus, l'année dernière, "déterminés et préparés au combat; et nous y serions "infailliblement entrés, si la bataille d'Austerlitz et ses suites, " et surtout la retraite et la volonté expresse de l'Empereur de "Russie n'en avaient pas détourné le Roi. Je me suis trouvé " à cette époque à Vienne, isolé et abandonné de tout le monde. "J'ai signé sous le couteau une convention par laquelle je me "suis malheureusement attiré la haine de beaucoup de "monde; mais voici ce que j'ai fait. Arrivé à Berlin, j'ai " prié le Roi, plusieurs personnes peuvent l'attester, de me désavouer et de me renvoyer. La crainte d'une explosion "subite a retenu le Roi. Il a ratifié ma convention; mais "en y portant des modifications essentielles. Le silence "allarmant que le Gouvernement Français a gardé sur ces "modifications l'a engagé à m'envoyer à Paris. C'est là "enfin que j'ai reconnu quelles étaient les véritables dis-"positions envers nous; qu'on ne nous pardonnerait jamais "le traité du 3 Novembre; que moins encore on nous "pardonnerait notre existence avec une armée considérable et non battue: que Napoléon calculait le moment où il "tomberait sur nous avec toutes ses forces; que Talleyrand, " personellement attaché au systême d'une union amicale " avec la Prusse, avait seul reculé ce moment. Napoléon me "déclara dans ma première audience que, comme le Roi avait "jugé à propos de modifier la convention de Vienne, il la regardait comme non avenue, et qu'il lui en fallait une "autre. Il me fit faire par Talleyrand et Duroc des pro-" positions tellement extravagantes que j'aurais honte de vous " les répéter, et ce ne fut que par de bien grands efforts que je "parvins encore au traité du 15 fevrier. Lorsque M. de "Lucchesini se chargea de le porter à Berlin, nous étions "convenus ensemble que, si en arrivant il trouvait l'armée "réunie, il engagerait le Roi à refuser sa ratification; mais "il trouva l'armée dissoute: par des motifs connus à Dieu, "et peut-être à M. de Hardenberg, on avait entrainé la Roi "à mon insçu dans cette mesurc précipitée. Il fallait donc "céder encore; mais le Roi sut dès lors que tout ce qu'il "avait gagné était du tems. Revenu à Berlin "expliquai sans aucun déguisement que je n'avais obtenu "par ce voyage qu'un dernier et triste répit : que la paix, "et la convention de Paris ne pouvaient pas tenir six mois; "qu'il fallait se préparer à la guerre, et saisir la première "occasion pour prévenir notre prétendu allié, qui n'avait "d'autre projet que celui de nous assouvir et de nous

"détruire. Le Roi en fut enfin plainement convaincu. C'est "à la suite de mes représentations que 50,000 hommes de nos "troupes furent laissés sur le pied de guerre, malgré toutes "les protestations de la partie administrative et militaire. "Depuis le mois de mars le Roi n'a plus cessé de se croire "chaque jour à la veille de l'explosion. Lorsque la Russie "et l'Angleterre ont entamé leurs négociations de paix, tout "devait être suspendu de notre part. Mais c'est au milieu de ces négociations, et avant même que nous eussions la "certitude que l'Empereur de Russie refuserait sa ratification "au traité signé par Oubril, que notre partie fut décidément "pris. C'est à cette même époque que Lucchesini, déchirant " les derniers voiles qui couvraient la perfidie du Gouvernement "Français, nous fit parvenir des éclaircissemens de toute "espèce. Il vous en instruira lui-même plus amplement. "Son dernier courier arriva le 7 d'août, et ce jour aussi "l'ordre fut donné de mettre deux-tiers de l'armée sur le pied "de guerre, et de la rassembler sans autre délai. Le plus "grand secret, la plus grande dissimulation étaient indis-L'Empéreur de Russie fut d'abord le seul pensables. dépositaire de notre projet. Le Roi lui écrivit le jour "même que l'ordre fut donné, en lui exposant toute la "situation, et lui faisant part de la totalité de ses plans. "Dans ces entrefaites, nous reçumes d'un coté la nouvelle "que le traité de M. d'Oubril avait été rejetté à St. "Petersbourg; de l'autre coté les plaintes du Gouvernement "Français contre M. de Lucchesini, et la demande formelle "de son rappel. Ce fut tout ce qui put nous arriver de plus "heureux. Nous consentions à ce rappel de la meilleure "grace du monde; et M. de Knobelsdorff fut nommé pour "compléter l'illusion. Dans les derniers jours d'août, le Roi "eut de l'Empereur de Russie une lettre qui ne laissait rien "à désirer. Le Comte Goetzen fut envoyé à Dresde pour "engager l'Electeur de Saxe. Quant à celui de Hesse, nous "étions sûrs de lui depuis long tems. Enfin dans les premiers "jours de Septembre, nos préparatifs étaient assez avançées, pour que nous pussions sans inconvénient nous en ouvrir avec d'autres puissances. Des communications furent faites "à la cour de Vienne, et peu après à celui de Londres. "L'arrivée de Knobelsdorff à Paris et le résultat de ses " premières audiences firent enfin éclater la rupture. Voilà" ajouta-t-il "la véritable marche de cette affaire; les pièces "que je vous remettrai ici vous en fourniront les preuves "et les détails." (Il me remit les deux traités de Vienne et de Paris; un rapport qu'il avait fait au Roi, au mois de mai, sur ses rélations avec la France; plusieurs dépèches de M. de Lucchesini; et la note que M. le Comte de Knobelsdorff a présentée en forme d'ultimatum.) "Vous verrez présentement quelque chose qui vous frappera plus encorc (faisant " allusion au manifeste) et après ce que je viens de vous exposer, "vous me direz si j'ai eu raison de prétendre que notre "politique a été sage et bien-intentionnée, et que nous "n'avons à nous retraiter sur rien."

J'avais écouté tout ceci avec l'attention la plus soutenue. Il s'agissait de répondre. Je me permis à mon tour de commencer par une courte préface, dans laquelle je disais que, comme l'honneur que le Roi m'avait fait, en m'appelant dans un moment aussi grave, était non seulement bien inattendu pour moi, mais, vu la place bien peu importante que j'occupais dans les affaires de ce monde, au-delà de toutes mes prétentions, je ne concevais pas d'autre moyen pour y répondre que celui de dire mon opinion avec toute la franchise possible, persuadé qu'on ne m'aurait pas fait venir si on avait voulu mc demander autre chose que la vérité toute pure, telle qu'elle se présentait à mon esprit. Il m'interrompit par me dire que ceci était entendu une fois pour toutes, et qu'il me saurait bien mauvais gré, si je ne lui parlais pas absolument comme je Je lui exposai alors succinctement mes idées sur le système de la Prusse depuis l'époque du malheureux traité de Bâle, et arrivé aux derniers événemens, je lui dis dans les termes les plus clairs et tels que je vais les citer ici; que tout en expliquant une quantité de choses passées par l'aversion insurmontable du Roi pour la guerre, j'en avais vu bien d'autres dont, même en leur appliquant cette donnée, je n'avais jamais pu venir à bout : que le Roi pouvait avoir eu de bonnes raisons pour ne pas s'engager dans la guerre, après que l'Autriche et la Russie y eurent renoncé: que sur ce point-là j'avais toujours eu une opinion différente de celle du public, et beaucoup plus favorable à la Prusse; mais que tout ce qui s'était fait de sa part, depuis la fin de l'année dernière, m'avait affligé et dégouté au plus haut point; que je trouvais dans l'idée d'un traité d'alliance, conclu avec l'ennemi commun et reconnu des droits de tous les souverains, et de l'indépendance de tous les peuples, dans la capitale même de l'Empèreur, autorisé à regarder comme son allié le souverain qui se portait à cette démarche, quelque chose qui répugnait également à mes sentimens et à mcs principes : que quant au traité de Paris et à l'occupation définitive du pays d'Hanovre j'en avais été affecté au point qu'en les considérant même comme il venait de les présenter dans son récit sous le point de vue du stratagêmes politiques, et de moyens pour gagner du tems, je ne me réconcilierais jamais avec ces mesures; que j'aurais peut-être été un mauvais conseiller, et un Ministre mal-adroit, mais que si j'avais été bien convainçu qu'il n'eût existé d'autre alternative que celle de ces traités ou de la guerre, j'aurais conjuré le Roi de prendre son parti, de passer sur tous les scrupules, et de courir aux armes contre l'oppresseur, plutôt que de partager l'injustice.

Il me répondit avec beaucoup de calme et de douceur. Il me dit que les opinions devaient nécessairement différer sur des problèmes aussi difficiles et aussi compliqués; qu'il ne me contesterait certainement pas le droit d'avoir la mienne,

et qu'il me remerciait de la franchise avec laquelle je venais de l'énoncer. Mais, en même tems, il désirait de savoir si je croyais qu'en s'expliquant avec les puissances, dont la bonne volonté intéressait la Prusse, de la manière qu'il l'avait fait avec moi, et avec le public, autant qu'il était convenable de le faire, il ne parviendrait pas à déraçiner le malheurcux soupçon de mauvaise foi qui pesait sur le Cabinet de Berlin, et à décider ceux-mêmes qui partageaient mon opinion sur le fond, à lui accorder du moins la droiture et la

pureté des intentions.

Je répliquai que, quant aux jugemens des Cours, j'étais tout-à-fait incompétent et incapable de l'anticiper; mais quant à celui du public, je lui dirais sincérement ce que j'en pensais. Je croyais excessivement difficile de reconquérir l'opinion en faveur des démarches passées de la Prusse; je doutais même qu'il existât un talent assez supérieur pour s'acquitter de cette tache; mais on pouvait, selon moi, s'épargner jusqu'à la peine de l'aborder. L'état des choses est tel, lui dis-je, que personne ne se soucie aujourd'hui de fouiller dans les évènemens antérieurs. L'Allemagne souffre. La tyrannie qui l'opprime est devenue insupportable. L'usurpateur cruel qui l'exerce est exécré partout. Il me suffit de vous voir armé, avec le but avoué de mettre un terme à tant de malheurs, pour que tous les coeurs soient à vous. Vous me faites l'honneur de me demander mon conseil; le voici: laissez là le passé; montrez le présent sous une forme qui ne laisse aucun doute sur la justice de votre cause, sur la fermeté de vos résolutions, sur la sagesse de vos mesures : faites entrevoir l'avenir sous un aspect qui éloigne absolument toute idée d'intérêt personnel; et j'ose répondre non seulement de l'opinion, mais encore de la faveur et de la confiance générale.

Cette réponse parut le mettre à son aise. Il me dit : "vous " avez parfaitement raison; si vous partiez après ne m'avoir "dit que cela, je me féliciterais bien de vous avoir vu. Voilà "la marche qui sera adoptée; je n'y fais qu'une seule " restriction. Il faut parler du passé à notre ennemi. "avons de trop bonnes choses à lui dire. Mais quant à nos "amis et au public, il vaut mieux qu'il n'en soit plus question. "Expliquons-nous donc d'abord, sur le présent. Vous voyez "ce qui se passe. Nous avons fait un armément très dis-" pendieux; nous l'augmenterons encore de beaucoup. "Tout ce qui était resté en arrière, jusqu'au dernier régiment, "a reçu ordre de marcher. Notre intention est de faire une "guerre vigourcuse; une fois en train, quelques revers, "mème quelques batailles perdues ne nous engageront pas à "rétrograder. Nous aurons aussi des alliés. L'Empereur de "Russie s'est déjà prononcé, d'une manière qui nous autorise "à tout espérer de lui. Les Français n'ont jamais soupçonné "nos véritables rapports avec ce souverain. Ils sont tels " que si nous nous trouvions aujourd'hui à deux doigts de

"notre perte, et si l'Empereur avait signé hièr je ne sais quel traité avec la France, il n'en serait pas moins à nous avec tous ses moyens. Nous nous flattons que tout s'arrangera avec l'Angleterre. Vous serez peut-être étonné d'apprendre que d'après des lettres que j'ai reçues de Hambourg, un negociateur Anglais est en route pour arriver ici. Pour ce qui est de l'Autriche, le parti qu'elle adoptera ne nous est pas positivement connu. En attendant, nous sommes parfaitement sûrs de ses bonnes dispositions pour nous. Si vous aviez là-dessus quelque donnée satisfaisante, que vous puissiez me communiquer, je vous en serais fort

"obligé."

Je répondis que si par Vienne il entendait les intentions du cabinet de Vienne, il avait tort de croire que je les connaissais mieux que lui, à moins qu'il n'en sût moins que rien; que je n'avais été à aucune époque initié dans les secrèts du gouvernement; et que si autrefois j'avais possédé quelque notion sur la situation générale des choses dans ce pays, une longue absence m'avait entièrement dérouté à cet égard: que pour autant qu'il s'agissait d'un simple calcul conjectural, je m'en tiendrais toujours à un principe qui me paraissait trop naturel pour ne pas être fondé; c'est â dire, que l'Empereur ne repousserait aucun moyen honorable pour effectuer un changement heureux dans l'état actuel de l'Allemagne et de l'Europe, si ce moyen se présentait à lui sans la perspective d'un redoublement de malheurs, dans le cas du moindre revers. Mais, quant à des déterminations prises ou à prendre par rapport au moment actuel, je les ignorais si complétement que je ne savais pas même comment le Cabinet de l'Empereur envisageait et jugeait l'entreprise à laquelle le Roi de Prusse s'était porté; que j'avais trop bonne opinion des combinaisons politiques du Cabinet de Berlin, pour ne pas le croire tout autrement instruit que moi sur un objet aussi capital, et qui tenait de si près aux conditions irremissibles du succès.

Je m'apperçus que cette reponse l'embarrassait qu'aucune chose que j'avais dite dans cette conversation. Il s'était cependant exprimé d'une manière trop distincte sur l'incertitude dans laquelle il se trouvait par rapport à ce même objet capitale pourqu'il eût pu revenir sur ses pas; et l'empressement même qu'il avait montré à obtenir de moi quelque renseignement, trahissait assez à quel point il en était dépourvu. Il se contenta donc de faire sonner de nouveau, dans des termes assez vagues et mal-assurés, sa confiance entière dans les dispositions amicales de la Cour de Vienne. Il me dit qu'on était occupé depuis quinze jours du projet d'y envoyer quelque militaire de distinction; qu'on en avait différé l'exécution, tant pour ne pas causer avant le tems une allarme qui aurait pu compromettre le gouvernement Autrichien, que parceque la guerre n'était pas encore déclarée, et le plan de campagne pas assez fixe. Qu'en attendant, on avait soumis à l'Empereur

d'envoyer de son coté quelque officier de marque, faisant sentir qu'on serait bien aise que son choix tombât sur le Général Stutterheim; qu'aussitôt que l'une ou l'autre de ces missions avait en train, on s'ouvrirait avec la Cour Impériale sur tous les projets, présens et futurs; qu'on n'aurait pour elle aucun secrèt; qu'on n'arrêterait rien sur l'avenir sans son assentiment complet et formel; qu'il lui paraissait de la plus grande nécessité de concerter le plutôt possible sur ce qu'il y aurait à faire dans le cas d'un succès décisif, tel qu'il aimait à le supposer. lui dis alors que je partageait si fort son opinion sur ce qu'il venait d'énoncer, que j'avais même tout bonnement cru qu'on s'occupait depuis long tems de ces questions, et que quelque négotiation ou discussion y rélative était en train; que j'étais persuadé, qu'après une conviction parfaite de la solidité de plans militaires de la Prusse, rien ne contribuerait plus à inspirer de la confiance à l'Empereur que des notions satisfaisantes sur l'objet que l'on se proposait d'atteindre; que sous ce rapport, comme sous bien d'autres, rien n'était, selon moi, plus essentiel que d'avoir un plan, de savoir avec précision vers oû l'on marchait; que par-là la Prusse gagnerait elle-même une assiette fixe, et encouragerait les autres à se Il me dit que c'était précisement une des rallier à elle. matières sur lesquelles il avait le plus désiré de s'entretenir avec moi; que j'aurais certainement des idées là-dessus; qu'il me priait de les lui communiquer; qu'il m'exposerait ensuite les siennes.

Je m'engageai sans crainte dans cette discussion hypothétique. J'avais en effet beaucoup réflèchi sur ce que pourraient être les résultats politiques de cette guerre; supposé toujours qu'elle eût pu devenir générale; sans quoi je n'en attendais, à l'ordinaire, que la défaite, la honte, et le désespoir. À Nauemburg encore, pendant que je fus à attendre le message du Comte de Haugwitz, j'avais passé mon tems à jetter sur papier mes idées sur un arrangement futur de l'Allemagne, si elle échappait au joug étranger: je n'étais donc point

embarrassé à répondre.

Je crus cependant, et par plus d'une raison, devoir strictement me renfermer dans la question; et je l'annonçai au Comte de Haugwiz, en lui disant que, quant à l'examen préalable de la probabilité du succès, je ne me sentais pas assez suffisamment instruit pour l'aborder; que sur ce point-là je m'en remettais à lui, présumant qu'il ne se scrait pas embarqué dans une entreprise aussi difficile et aussi périlleuse, sans en avoir calculé toutes les chances. Après cela je lui ai developpé mon plan, dont je ne citerai que les traits caractéristiques. Réléguer les troupes françaises au-delà du Rhin, objet direct de la guerre, le seul, du moins, auquel je pus m'intéresser; cela fait, dissoudre la confédération monstreuse qui s'était formé sous les auspices d'un pouvoir arbitraire et étranger; examiner ensuite si le rétablissement de l'ancienne constitution de l'Empire, avec telles modifications que les conjonctures

pourraient indiquer, ne serait pas preférable à tout ce rétablissement reconnu impraticable : partager l'Allemagne en deux grandes confédérations, réunies par une alliance perpétuelle, dont l'une sous la protection de l'Autriche, l'autre sous celle de la Prusse, dont les membres conserveraient tous les droits de souveraineté, sauf à être astreints à un systême militaire uniforme. Quant aux arrangemens de territoires, comme il ne serait plus possibles de parvenir à un nouvel ordre de choses sans que l'un ou l'autre éprouvât des pertes, s'en tenir à la Bavière, plus responsable du désordre actuel que qui que ce soit en Allemagne, (l'Electeur Archi-Chancelier toujours excepté,) la réduire à ses anciennes possessions, en lui laissant tout au plus le pays de Bamberg comme indemnité du pays de Berg; réunir celui-ci à Clèves, et le remettre à la Prusse, pour faire cesser le scandale d'un général étranger assis parmi les princes d'Allemagne, et pour que les places de Dusseldorff et de Wesel se tournassent entre les mains de la puissance particulièrement chargée de defendre le nord de l'Allemagne; restituer à l'ancien possesseur le Tyrol et le Voralberg, l'idée d'en voir privée la maison d'Autriche ne pouvant être supportée sans indignation par aucune ame honnête et sensible; avancer la frontière Autrichienne en Italie j'usqu'au Mincio, non pas comme mesure intégrante d'un nouveau plan d'organisation pour l'Italie, à laquelle il serait prématuré de penser, mais comme condition indispensable de l'indépendance réelle de l'Allemagne, et d'un arrangement solide de ses affaires.

Le Comte de Haugwiz me dit de cet air de sérènité et de bienveillance que ceux qui ont eu affaire avec lui connaissent si bien "Vous parliez comme si vous aviez lu dans mes "pensées, j'ajouterais presque dans mes papiers. Voilà, "à peu de modifications près, le plan que j'ai conçu aussi. "Nous avons réconnu la ligue du Rhin parcequ'alors nos "préparatifs n'étaient pas assez avancés pour rompre avec "la France, et parcequ'il nous fallait encore la preuve compléte "de sa perfidie, pour fixer la résolution du Roi; mais nous "l'avons réconnu sous la condition expresse qu'aucun obstacle "ne serait mis à la formation d'une confédération des états "du nord de l'Allemagne; cette condition n'a jamais été "remplic. D'ailleurs je ne veux pas vous cacher que l'idée "de cette contreligue du Nord ne m'a pas bien sérieusement "occupé; qu'elle n'a été jettée en avant, que pour gagner du

"Il nous faut avant tout des victoires. Si nous les obtenons "je vous promets bien que vous n'entendrez plus parler ni "de la ligue du Rhin, ni du *Primat*, ni de *Murat*. Pour les "arrangemens de territoire je suis de même complètement "de votre opinion; c'est la Bavière qui doit payer l'écot. "Je crois qu'il serait bien fait non seulement de rétablir, "mais d'aggrandir la Prusse, du coté de la Franconie, ce qui "la mettrait en état de couvrir plus efficacement le flanc droit "de la puissance Autrichienne. Quant à la restitution du "Tyrol, et à l'extension de la frontière de l'Autriche en Italie, "je regarde ces mesures comme les plus pressantes de toutes; "et le Roi y est tellement déterminé que, dût-il lui en couter "quelques provinces à lui, il ne lacherait pas prise sur cet "article."

La conversation s'était prolongée au-delà de deux heures. Le Comte de Haugwiz s'en apperçut, parceque le jour tomba. Il mc dit alors, qu'après cette explication générale, il avait deux propositions spéciales à me faire; d'abord que je l'assistasse pendant quelques jours de mes conseils, et en cas de besoin, de ma plume; et ensuite, que lorsque je serais bien informé de tout, je me rendisse à Vienne "non pas," disait-il, "avec une commission quelconque," car ce n'est pas "à nous "à vous ordonner, mais simplement pour parler de ce que vous "aurez vu et entendu, et pour contribuer à détruire les "derniers restes de méfiances, s'il pouvait en exister encore." Je lui répondis que, quant à la première proposition, je ne m'y refuserais certainement pas, pour autant que je serais capable de la remplir, et supposant toutefois que mon sejour ne se prolongeât pas au-delà d'une semaine. Mais que, quant au voyage de Vienne, j'étais obligé de le décliner absolument; que je n'avais aucun titre quelconque pour m'ingérer dans des affaires aussi importantes lorsque je n'y étais directement appellé; que je ne savais pas même comment on jugerait à Vienne le voyage que je venais de faire, auquel je m'étais déterminé en suivant ma propre impulsion, qui m'avait dit de l'entreprendre à tout risque; mais que je ne pouvais m'aventurer plus loin; que d'ailleurs le récit fidèle que je ferais en tout cas, de tout ce que j'aurais appris dans ce voyage, se ferait également bien par écrit, sans compter que j'éviterais par cette voie les bruits et les conjectures auxquelles mon apparition subite à Vienne ne manquerait pas de donner lieu. Après cela, il n'a plus été question du voyage. Le Comte de Haugwiz est rentré dans la première partie de ses propositions. Il m'a dit qu'il avait à me demander, avant tout, de me charger de la révision d'un manifeste, rédigé par M. Lombard, et de la traduction de cette pièce en Allemand. Il m'a assuré que je trouverais Lombard dans des dispositions dont je serais bien content, prèt à acceuillir toutes les remarques, et toutes les critiques, que je pourrais lui communiquer sur son travail, et à y faire tous les changemens que je proposcrais. Il m'a demandé ensuite de rédiger un article en réponse à ceux que les journaux français avaient publiés sous les dates fictives de Dresde et de Cassel rélativement à la situation de ces deux Cours, et à leurs rapports avec la Prusse.

Rentré chez moi, j'ai fait le minute, dont ce qu'on vient de lire est l'extrait. J'ai lu les papiers que le Comte de Haugwiz m'avait remis; et j'ai rédigé l'article sur les deux cours électorales, tel qu'il a été imprimé dans la gazette d'Erfurth du 7 octobre.

A neuf heures du soir, je me suis rendu chez le Marquis de Lucchesini. Comme tout le monde se couchait de bonne heure à Erfurth, il m'avait proposé, une fois pour toutes, de venir passer les soirées avec lui tête à tête. J'ai saisi cette proposition avec le plus grand empressement. Je connaissais le Comte de Haugwiz. Je savais quel était en général le caractère de ses discours. Il avait plus d'une éspèce d'intérêt à me présenter l'histoire du passé, et l'état actuel des choses, sous un aspect favorable et brillant. Le récit par lequel il avait debuté, bien loin de me satisfaire, ne m'avait rendu que désireux d'éclaircissemens et de rectifications. n'ignorait pas que ceux de M. de Lucchesini ne seraient point des Evangiles non plus, mais, entre deux versions inexactes, les chances s'augmentaient pour arriver à la vérité. Je savais, d'ailleurs, que ce dernier ministre n'avait jamais été au fond de son cœur l'ami de M. de Haugwiz. Je l'avais beaucoup connu autrefois, et pouvais le questionner tout à mon aise; et quant au point qui m'intéressait le plus, une connaissance compléte des motifs qui avaient déterminé la Prusse à cette subite lévée de bouclier, j'étais sûr que, dans une suite d'entretiens, je parviendrais à l'éclaireir tout-à-fait. Voilà les raisons pour lesquelles je crus devoir regarder les soirées de M. de Lucchesini comme une source d'informations très

Cette premiére conversation fut entièrement consacrée à l'histoire de ce que s'était passé à Paris pour amener la rupture avec la Prussc. M. de Lucchesini me confirma en massc l'apperçu que le Comte de Haugwiz m'avait donné, l'origine des traités de Vienne et de Paris. (Ce fut plus tard, comme on le verra ci-après, qu'il m'en fournit un récit plus circonstancié.) Il m'assura que lui aussi regardait depuis longtems une guerre avec la France comme inévitable. Il savait, à ne pas pouvoir en douter, que dès la première ouverture des négociations avec l'Angleterre, la restitution du pays d'Hanovre avait été distinctement proposée au gouvernement Anglais. On ne voulut pas le croire à Berlin. Cette démarche faite à la même époque oû M. la Forêt avait ordre de presser le Cabinet de Berlin à compléter et à renforcer les mesures par lesquelles il s'était approprié ce pays, parut d'une perfidie si noire, que ceux mêmes qui connaissaient le gouvernement Français, avaient de la peine à y ajouter foi. Les négotiations de M. d'Oubril répandaient un nouveau jour sur les desseins et les dispositions secrètes de

gouvernement.

Le traité, signé le 20 juillet contenait deux articles sccrèts; dont l'un arrêtait le fameux dédommagement du Roi de Naples par les iles Baléares, et dont l'autre, en addition à l'article VIII patent du traité, portait que la France et la Russie engageraient conjointement le Roi de Prusse à faire sa paix avec le Roi de Suede, sans demander à ce souverain le sacrifice de la Pomeranie suedoise. Rien, d'après ce qu'il

me dit, n'avait jamais plus irrité le Roi de Prusse que cette clause imprudente, qui semblait lui attribuer un projet contre lequel il avait protesté sans cesse, et qu'il repoussa chaque fois que la France lui en présenta l'amorce. Ce qui rendit cet article plus piquant, c'est que Napoléon, en parlant à ses entours de ses projets pour l'avenir, avait dit à plusieurs reprises, c'est un brave homme que ce Roi de Suede, je ne me contenterai pas de lui conserver son pays, je tâcherai de l'aggrandir. Dans le cours des conférences avec Oubril, les négociateurs français avaient constamment fait entendre que si l'Empéreur de Russie désirait de s'étendre en Pologne, on y consentirait sans difficulté; et, selon M. de Lucchesini, il n'avait pas tenu au Cabinet de Thuilleries qu'un article formel ne fut ajouté pour cet effet, aux conditions secrètes du traité. Enfin, une nouvelle déclaration sur la facilité avec laquelle on se prêterait en France à la restitution de l'électorat fut faite au gouvernement anglais, avant le départ de Lord Lauderdale pour Paris. Napoléon se flattait à cette époque que, de concert avec l'Empereur de Russie, il engagerait le Roi de Prusse sans difficulté à sortir du pays d'Hanovre. On ne pensait pas même à la restitution de ses provinces cèdées; quelque dédommagement chétif, (quelque Bemberg, Cothen, disait le Marquis) voilà tout ce qu'on avait imaginé pour lui, et chaque jour développa davantage le projet de le sacrifier absolument, et de préparer la chute de la monarchie.

Ce fut là la substance des avis qu'il avait donné depuis quelque mois à sa our ; mais principalement de deux rapports qu'il fit le 22 et le 29 juillet, et lesquels, joints aux propositions faites à l'Electeur de Hesse, et aux démarches hostiles contre

le Prince d'Orange, déterminèrent le Roi à la guerre.

Plus d'une fois, pendant le cours de ce récit, j'avais été tenté d'aborder l'importante question, si tout cela motivait assez la résolution de rompre subitement avec la France. Mais il me parut plus sage de l'ajourner. J'aurais pu dire au Marquis des choses qui l'aurait embarrassé, ou peut-être même réfroidi pour moi; et je voulais m'instruire complétement, avant d'en venir aux discussions.

Il me raconta ensuite l'histoire de son rappel. Le Gouvernement français avait intercepté une de ses dépêches: (à en juger d'après plusieurs circonstances, je ne crois pas me tromper en soupçonnant que cet incident avait été prévu, ou amené à dessein). Il fit demander le rappel de M. de Lucchesini. La Forêt eut ordre de déclarer qu'il répondrait de rien, si cette demande n'était pas accordée sur le champ. La Cour de Berlin, comme M. de Haugwiz me l'avait déjà dit, fut sécrètement enchantée de cet orage. Rien ne lui parut plus favorable pour masquer ses projets; et M. de Knobelsdorff, connu de tout tems pour être un des partisans lés plus zélés de Napoléon, et du système pacifique, fut choisi exprès pour donner le change. Mais ce qu'il y eut de plus curieux dans cette derniére mesure (c'était là un des stratagèmes du Comte

de Haugwiz) c'est que ce Knobelsdorff fut lui-même complètement la dupe de sa mission. Il s'imagina, tout de bon, qu'on l'envoyait à Paris pour rétablir la bonne intelligence, movennant son crédit personnel. Il y arriva, ne se doutant de rien, et croyant qu'il applanirait toutes les difficultés dans peu de jours. Il eut le bonhommie de croire que ses instructions étaient un sécrèt pour M. de Lucchesini, dans lequel il ne voyait plus qu'un ministre dégracié. Il les lui cacha soigneusement, et lorsque celui-ci, feignant de tout ignorer, lui dit, que l'on prétendait qu'il était dans ses instructions de demander la retraite des troupes françaises, l'autre en convint, ajoutant "qu'il regardait comme peu "difficile d'engager l'Empereur à cette démarche." A la première audience Napoléon s'addressa à M. de Knobelsdorff en ces termes: "Je suis bien aise de vous voir ici. J'aime les hommes "simples et ronds comme vous; mais je suis bien mécontent "de votre Cour. Qu'est-ce que ces chicanes sur la confédération "du Nord, et sur le séjour de mes troupes en Allemagne?" L'autre voulut faire comprendre que le Roi était loin de proposer à l'Empereur la moindre chose désobligeante, mais qu'il lui paraissait cependant que ce séjour des troupes françaises devait avoir un terme quelconque. Sur Napoléon, s'emportant terriblement, s'écria "mais vous ne "saves donc pas, que je veux avoir Cattaro; que j'ai besoin de "Cattaro. Pas un homme ne passera le Rhin, avant que "cela ne soit terminé. Quant à cette misère de 7 à 8,000 "hommes qui se trouvent du coté de la Westphalie, il y aura "moyen de s'entendre; mais avant tout, il faut que votre Roi "désarme, qu'il désarme complétement, que toutes vos troupes "rentrent dans leurs quartiers de paix." Knobelsdorff fut un peu inquiet après cette sortie vigoureuse, mais lorsque, le lendemain matin, il reçut en présent quatre chevaux et une voiture (chose qui n'avait jamais eu lieu que pour l'ambassadeur Turc,) il se crut de nouveau au pinacle de la faveur. écrivit à sa femme qu'elle pouvait être parfaitement tranquille qu'on ne pensait pas à la guerre; et lorsqu'il fut question du départ de Napoléon pour l'armée, il demanda bonnement à sa Cour, s'il devait l'accompagner dans ce voyage. M. de Lucchesini, en partant de Paris, cut une audience de

M. de Lucchesini, en partant de Paris, cut une audience de congé, très longue, et très calme. Buonaparte lui parla sans cesse des plans qu'il méditait pour le bonheur de l'humanité, et de ce qu'on n'avait qu'à le laisser faire, pour que l'Europe se trouvât bientôt dans l'assiette la plus désirable. En touchant aux négotiations avec l'Angleterre, il lui dit; "je "sais bien que ce Lauderdale n'est autre chose qu'un espion que j'ai à Paris; il y a long tems que j'aurais renvoyé cet

"homme, mes ministres ne l'ont pas voulu."

M. de Lucchesini demanda ensuite à Talleyrand (avec lequel il parut avoir été bien jusqu'au dernier moment) l'explication de ce dernier propos; et il apprit qu'effectivement lui et Champagny avait déclaré à l'Empereur, qu'au moment où

une nouvelle guerre continentale allait éclater, il était de toute nécessité de conserver l'apparence d'une négotiation avec l'Angleterre pour ne pas jetter le peuple dans le désespoir. Il me dit à cette occasion ce qu'il m'a souvent répété ensuite, que la guerre avec l'Angleterre était, au fond, la seule à laquelle le public de France s'intérressât, puisque les maux qu'elle infligeait au pays étaient sentis dans chaque moment; que rien n'était aussi hautement prononcé dans toutes les classes du peuple que le voeu de voir finir cette guerre; et que lors qu'on parlait de paix à Paris, on entendait toujours la paix avec l'Angleterre; les autres étant aussi indifférentes au public que les victoires et les conquêtes de Buonaparte.

Selon ce qu'il me disait encore, la négotiation avec l'Angleterre était réellement fort avancée à une certaine époque. Malte et le Cap étaient accordés. On se débattait encore un peu pour Surinam, qui à la fin aurait été abandonné aussi; mais la grande pierre d'achoppement était la Sicile, sur laquelle les deux parties paraissaient ne pas vouloir céder. Il croit cependant que quand même on se serait enfin arrangé sur cet article, deux grand difficultés se seraient présentées au dernier acte de la négotiation. Le Gouvernement français aurait exigé, comme point d'honneur, quelque modification dans les principes du droit maritime; chose à laquelle l'Angleterre n'aurait certainement jamais consenti. D'un autre coté, malgré l'extrême légereté avec laquelle la France avait toujours traité l'affaire de la restitution du pays d'Hanovre, cet article aurait éprouvé aussi les difficultés très sérieuses, ear le Gouvernement anglais ne se serait pas contenté du consentement pur et simple, de la France; il aurait demandé la garantie de l'exécution, et au point où en etaient les choses, celle-là ne pouvait plus être obtenu que par une guerre avec Napoléon s'était flatté un moment, qu'il y suppléerait par l'intervention de l'Empereur de Russie; mais son calcul était faux, comme la plupart de ceux qu'il avail fait par rapport aux dispositions de ce monarque.

Lundi 6 Octobre. Je me suis rendu à dix heures du matin chez M. Lombard, auquel l'état de sa santé ne permettait pas de sortir. Je l'ai trouvé dans une triste situation, perdus des mains et des pieds, pouvant à peine se trainer d'une chaise à l'autre. Son csprit avait conscrvé son ancienne vivacité, et quant à son crédit, et son pouvoir, ils n'avaient nullement baissé. Il était toujours bien plus ministre que M. de Haugwiz, qui ne faisait aucune démarche essentielle sans que Lombard n'y eut préalablement consenti; et plus d'une fois j'ai entendu celui-ci dire à son frère Pierre, favori et secretaire intime de ce ministre : dites au Comte de Haugwiz que j'ai à lui parler ce soir : n'oubliez pas que le Comte de

Haugwiz doit venir chcz moi demain matin.

Il m'a reçu d'une manière extrêmement amicale. Nous avions été anciennement liés, mais je m'étais éloigné de lui pendant les trois dernières années de mon sejour à Berlin;

ayant pris également en horreur ses principes corrompus, et la perversité de sa conduite, de sorte qu'il y avait bien sept ans que nous ne nous étions vus. Il me dit "nous voilà "donc, à la fin, d'accord. Croyez qu'au fond, nous l'étions "toujours bien plus que vous ne pensiez. Nous avons "différé sur les moyens, mais non pas sur le but. Je ne "pouvais pas me prononcer sur la guerre, ni conseiller au "Roi de l'entreprendre, tant que la nation y était absolument "opposée. Aujourd'hui elle la veut toute entière; parmi "les 10 ou 11 millions d'hommes qui la composent, pas un

"homme n'est d'un sentiment différent."

Il me parla ensuite de son manifeste, en disant qu'il était fait depuis huit jours; mais que depuis qu'il avait su que le Roi m'avait appellé, il n'avait plus voulu y toucher, sans connaître mon avis sur cette pièce. Après cela il me remit comme introduction au manifeste, une lettre qu'il avait écrite au nom du Roi à l'Empercur Napoléon, et qui avait été présentée à celui-ci avec l'ultimatum de Knobelsdorff. Il y joignit une lettre de Napoléon au Roi, antérieure à la sienne, et datée, si je ne me trompe, le 12 Septembre. Il me pria de lire ces pièces chez moi, et de rétourner chez lui après diner, pour lui en dire mon opinion, et procéder ensuite à la lecture, et à l'examen du manifeste. J'omets plusieurs choses intéressantes qu'il me dit dans cette première entrevue, puisqu'il y en eut plus tard une autre, dans laquelle il y revint avec des développemens très remarquables, qui se trouveront

à leur place.

Rentré chez moi je lus la lettre à Napoléon, et j'en fus bien mal-édifié. C'était une pièce d'une longueur assommante, contenant la plupart des griefs et des explications que se retrouvent dans le manifeste; et écrite d'un ton de familiarité, de patelinage, et souvent d'indécence qui me choquait extrêmement. Je trouvai le Roi plûtôt compromis que justifié par cette lettre. On pourrait d'ailleurs en dire ce que Rivarol disait de la fameuse addresse de Mirabeau à Louis XVI, pour le renvoi de troupes de Paris, qu'il y avait trop d'amour pour tant de menaces, et trop de menaces pour tant d'amour. Je ne pouvais pas me dissimuler que dans la lettre de Napoléon, redigée non pas dans le stile du Cabinet Buonaparte, mais dans le meilleur stile des burcaux de Talleyrand, il y avait infiniment plus de mesure, de gout, et de dignité. Le texte de cette dernière lettre était, qu'une guerre entre la France et la Prusse serait une monstruosité politique, attendu que ces deux Etats étaient faits pour vivre toujours dans la plus étroite intelligence.

J'ai diné chez le Comte de Haugwiz, avec M. de Lucchesini et son fils cadet, le Comte Gortz, Ministre de Saxe, le Baron de Waitz Ministre de Hesse. Le Comte de Haugwiz m'a dit avant le diner, qu'il avait communiqué l'article que j'avais écrit la veille, sur les dispositions des deux Cours électorales, aux deux Ministres de ces Cours, avant de le livrer à

l'impression, et qu'ils en avaient été très contents. Je n'eus pas le tems de m'en expliquer d'avantage avee lui; mais ayant réfléehi pendant le diner sur ee qu'il y avait de louehe dans la conduite de l'Electeur de Hesse, et principalement dans eelle de M. de Waitz, que je savais très faiblement attaché à l'alliance Prussienne, et très médioerement porté pour la guerre, j'en parlai après diner au Marquis de Luechesini. Je lui avouai que le prétendu contentement de M. de Waitz me paraissait assez suspeet; et j'appuyai d'autant plus sur eette observation, que je m'imaginais depuis quelques jours, qu'ils voulaient dissimuler leurs véritables rapports avec la Hesse, et qu'ils étaient, en effet, beaucoup moins avancés avec l'Electeur qu'il ne se donnerent l'air de l'être. Mais le Marquis me dit, d'un ton très positif, que mes soupçons n'étaient rien moins que fondés; que malgré toutes ses démonstrations de neutralité, l'Electeur de Hesse était dans leurs intérêts de eœur et d'ame, et que s'il avait paru tergiverser, e'était par un ealeul d'avance, pour obtenir des subsides de l'Angleterre, en négotiant pour son propre compte, et faisant semblant de se faire tirer l'oreille, quoique sa résolution fût prise depuis long tems. Au reste, ajouta-t-il, quant à l'article en question je vous prie de ne pas vous en faire eonseience; il faut un peu faire les honneurs de ces messieurs, puisqu'ils ne veulent pas se produire mèmes.

A quatre heures je suis retourné ehez Lombard. Je m'étais bien promis de ne pas lui déguiser mon opinion sur la lettre à Napoléon, et je lui ai dit à peu près tout ee que j'en pensais. Il l'a pris assez bien; il s'est faiblement defendu; il s'est borné à m'assurer que je serais eontent du manifeste. Il m'en a fait alors la lecture. Je l'ai trouvé en effet supérieur à la lettre, et à mon attente. Ce n'est pas dire que j'en aie été absolument satisfait; il s'en fallait beaucoup. Je sentais toutefois que la tâche était extrêmement difficile. La Prusse se trouvait placée, graces à ses longs égaremens, dans un dilemma singulièrement cruel. Ses meilleurs argumens étaient des armes à deux tranchants; par lesquelles, de quelque eoté qu'elle tournât, elle se frappait, elle se blessait elle-même. Voulait-elle faire valoir eontre la France les nombreux sacrifiees (d'honneur et de principes) qu'elle lui avait faits, elle aehevait de se perdre dans l'opinion de l'Europe: voulait-elle se rélever dans eelle-ei, elle était obligée de convenir qu'elle avait eonstamment trompé la France. Un france et noble aveu de ses torts, une espèce de rétraetation solemnelle aurait été peut-être le seul moyen d'éviter ee double éeueil; mais les ministres qui publiaient le manifeste étant les mêmes que avaient présidé à sa politique depuis tant d'années, on ne pouvait pas s'attendre à une marche pareille. Quelques phrases brillantes sans trop de liaison et d'ensemble, un stile eoupé, épigrammatique, voilà done les seules ressources qui restaient au rédaeteur de cette pièce; et en considérant la base fragile sur laquelle il était condamné à travailler, il serait très injuste de nier qu'elle était composée avec beaucoup de talent.

La première lecture faite, il me proposa de discuter la pièce, article par article. Il adopta, non seulement avec facilité mais avec le plus grand empressement, toutes les observations que je crus devoir lui faire; il n'en repousa pas une. Il y avait une quantité de passages que ressentaient de ce ton indécent qui m'avait tant revolté contre la lettre; il les supprima, ou les modifia tous; il me sollicita quelque fois de prendre la plume pour exprimer avec plus de précision la tournure que je voulais substituer à la sienne; ce fut là la seule opération par laquelle j'ai directement concouru à

certains passages de ce manifeste.

Le passage qui rappelle l'assassinat de M. le Duc d'Enghien se trouva rédigé à peu près dans les termes qui m'avaient violemment choqué dans la lettre. Il le changea d'après mon conseil. Mais ici je ne me bornai pas à une simple critique de rédaction. Je lui demandai, s'il avait bien pensé aussi à ce qu'il faisait en articulant un fait de cette nature. Ce trait là, et deux ou trois autres de la même force, lui disais-je, sont le signal d'une guerre à mort; et quelle que soit la satisfaction personelle que j'éprouve à voir exposés au grand jour des crimes, pour lesquels la lacheté du siècle n'a été que trop indulgente, je vous avertis cependant, en envisageant la chose comme homme d'état, qu'il faut être bien sûr de son fait, et tenir la victoire avec les deux mains, pour se permettre de parler ce langage dans une pièce diplomatique. Je reproduisais la même observation à propos de plusieurs autres paragraphes; il me répondit chaque fois "que le Roi le voulait

ainsi"; après quoi il n'y eut plus rien à dire.

Il y avait un article où le Roi faisait valoir eontre Napoléon la démarche faite, il y a quatre annécs, pour engager Louis XVIII. à rénoncer à son droit à la couronne. Cet article était d'un scandale outrageant. Je réprésentai à Lombard combien la Prusse était intéressé à faire oublier cette odicuse transaction. Il supprima le passage. Mais c'est en le discutant que se manifesta d'une manière bien claire la collision de deux grands intérêts opposés, qui pesait sur le fond de ce travail. Pour mettre Napoléon dans tout son tort, on ne pouvait pas trop appuyer sur les preuves de dévouement et de soumission que la Prusse lui avait si libéralement prodiguées: pour embellir la causc de la Prusse dans l'esprit de la partie saine et honorable des contemporains, on ne pouvait leur dérober assez le souvenir de sa longue complaisance pour l'ennemis communs de l'Europe. Lombard et le Cabinet de Berlin inclinait visiblement, et par des raisons faciles à saisir, aux plaidoyers du premier genre; quant à moi, j'aurais préféré le second. Cependant ils ne s'aveuglaient pas au point de ne pas sentir qu'ils marchaient sur les épines. Entre plusieurs phénomènes curieux, résultant de ces interêts contradictoires, en voici un que je crois devoir citer; puisqu'il me parait singulièrement caractériser ce qu'il y avait d'équivoque dans leur position: rien n'était au fond plus odieux que cette alliance qu'ils n'avaient pas rougi de signer dans un moment de détresse commune, où le premier, le seul besoin d'Europe, était l'union la plus étroite contre celui dont ils faisaient leur allié. D'un autre coté cette même circonstance pouvait aggraver aux yeux des Français, et aux yeux de tous ceux qui approuvaient l'ancien systême de la Prusse, l'injustice et la noirceur de Napoléon. Lombard avait donc imaginé de faire désigner, par traité, dans la version Allemande du manifeste, ce qui dans l'original Français devait porter son vrai nom d'alliance, et quoiqu'il s'apperçût à la fin, que cette ruse pouvait manquer son but, par la simple confrontation des deux textes, il y tenait cependant assez pour qu'il en restât des traces dans différents endroits de la déclaration.

La partie du manifeste qui contenait la justification de la Prusse sur les traités de Vienne et de Paris, fut celle où je refusai toute concurrence, même celle d'une critique de rédaction. Je répétai à Lombard ce que je n'avait cessé de déclarer à M. de Haugwiz et à M. de Lucchesini, que je trouvais ces traités impardonnables et inexcusables, et que je ne pouvais prendre aucune part quelconque à une apologie,

dont jamais je ne reconnaitrais les bases.

Là, où pour la première fois il était question du Hanovre. et où il était dit " que la Prusse avait offert à la cour de Londres "de s'opposer à l'envahissement de ce pays, sous les con-"ditions que celle-ci rejetta" il se trouvait un passage dans lequel on attaquait directement les principes du Gouvernement anglais, par rapport à la navigation des neutres. Je fis sentir l'imprudence de cette tirade dans un moment où on voulait se rapprocher de l'Angleterre. J'allais en démontrer la futilité lorsqu'il se détermina tout court à le retrancher. Le moment le plus difficile et le plus orageux de cette longue séance fut celui où nous discutions la péroraison. Après les mots qui désignent l'Empereur de Russie, il y avait un passage de quelques lignes où, sans nommer l'Autriche, on en parlait dans des termes qui n'étaient absolument applicables qu'à elle. Le sens de cet étrange allusion etait: "que l'Émpereur "seconderait la Prusse de ses voeux, s'il ne pouvait pas le "faire de ses efforts." Déjà, à la première lecture, j'avais été si fort frappé de ce passage, que je m'étais bien promis de le faire disparaitre à tout prix. Je représentai à Lombard ce qu'il y avait d'injuste, d'indélicat, et de cruel, de compromettre gratuitement une puissance qui, par quelque raison qui ce fût, ne voulait pas se précipiter dans la lutte. appellai aussi à l'intérêt bien entendu de la Prusse, qui ne l'engagcait certainement pas à aliéner la Cour de Vienne en le violentant ouvertement dans sa marche. Je recontrai dans cette discussion plus de ténacité et de résistance qu'il n'y en avait eu dans aucune autre partie du travail. Il se

retrancha de nouveau derrière l'objection embarrassant "que le Roi l'avait voulu ainsi." Mais depuis que je m'étais apperçu à quel point il était le maitre absolu de le rédaction, cette objection ne fit plus son effet. Cependant je vis de plus en plus, que pour remporter ici la victoire, il s'agissait d'une grande fermeté. Je lui déclarai donc enfin tout net, que si ce passage n'était point supprimé, non seulement je ne me prêterai jamais à la traduction du manifeste, mais je le renierais hautement; je m'inscrirais en faux contre cette pièce, et de plus, je me croirais obligé de quitter incessament Erfurth; je le quitterais dans la nuit, après avoir expliqué par une lettre au Roi que je remettrais au Comte Goetzen le motif de mon départ précipite. regarda d'un air de surprise, et après avoir réflèchi pendant quelques secondes, il prit brusquement la plume et effaça le tout.

Cette séance s'était prolongée jusqu'à 9 heures. que plus d'une fois pendant sa durée, je m'étais livré à des réflexions sérieuses sur la manière singulièrement leste, dont se traitaient les affaires dans ce Cabinet, que l'Europe était accoutumée à croire si prudent, si artificieux, et si profond. La pièce que fut discutée ce soir était de la dérnière importance; elle devait influer, sous tant de rapports, sur le sort futur de la Prusse; et il dépendait de Lombard tout seul de la rédiger, de la modifier, de la renverser avec moi. Ni le Roi, ni le Comte de Haugwiz, ni personne ne fut consulté sur aucune de ces operations; car le manifeste resta absolument tel qu'il était sorti de nos mains; et le Roi ne l'a pas même reçu avant qu'il fût imprimé et publié.

Le travail de la revision fini, Lombard me dit que le Roi était extrêmement pressé de voir ce manifeste publié; qu'il ne voulait pas tirer l'épée sans en avoir déclaré les motifs; et que je leur rendrais un très grand service en accélérant autant que possible la traduction. Je l'entrepris en rentrant chez moi, et y ayant consacré toute la nuit, je la terminai

à huit heures du matin.

Mardi 7 Octobre. J'ai vu dans la matinée une quantité de personnes qui se trouvaient à Erfurth; et sur fout un grand nombre d'officiers de la suite du Roi et autres. puis dire, en toute vérité, que chaque homme que je rencontrai dans la rue, m'aborda avec le même compliment "Vous êtes "ici, Dieu en soit loué, cette fois-ci nous ne scrons donc pas En réfléchissant sur ce qu'il y avait de funeste dans une situation où il fallait de pareilles garanties pour calmer les méfiances et les craintes, je commençai en même tems à soupçonner que l'effet que ma présence semblait produire pouvait bien avoir été le principal motif pour lesquels les ministres m'avaient invité; plusieurs choses que j'ai observées depuis m'ont eonfirmé dans cette opinion.

Après avoir diné chez le Comte de Haugwiz, j'ai cu encore une assez longue conversation avec lui. Il avait reçu une

dépêche du Comte Finkenstein. L'Empereur ayant été absent de Vienne, lorsque les dernières communications de la Prusse y étaient arrivées, le Comte Finkenstein n'avait pas encore reçu une réponse positive. Le Comte de Haugwiz me parla de nouveau de projet de la mission militaire. Je me trouvai dans un singulier embarras toutes les fois qu'il entama ce sujet: car, d'un coté, je fremissais à l'idée de voir la Prusse embarquée toute seule dans cette terrible et vaste entreprise; j'en calculais toutes les suites pour elle, et pour autres puissances; j'étais sûr que sans l'appui de l'Autriche, elle ne pouvait pas le conduire à bon port. D'un autre coté, loin d'avoir le droit de proposer, ou de prôner des mesures par lesquelles le Cour de Vienne pouvait être alarmée ou compromise; présumant déjà par plusieurs indices, que l'Empereur ne jugerait pas convenable de prendre part à la guerre; j'avais plûtôt le désir de détourner, autant que possible, tout ce qui pouvait le contrarier, ou le gêner dans sa résolution. Heureusement (je veux dire pour moi, puisque ce fut bien autre chose pour la Prusse), le Comte de Haugwiz, dès la première conversation, s'était montré si fort satisfait des dispositions qu'il supposait à l'Autriche, et si complétement tranquile et resigné sur les déterminations futures de cette puissance, que je n'avais qu'à prendre le ton auquel il m'invitait lui-même; et rien ne m'annonçant de sa part, qu'il regardait comme particulièrement pressant cet envoi d'un officier négotiateur, j'étais autorisé à en parler de même, quelle que fut ma vraie opinion à cet égard. Cette fois-ci il s'expliqua de manière que je m'attendais à voir tomber son choix sur le Genéral Phull, (peut-être dans la vue secrète de l'éloigner pour quelque tems de l'armée, où il ne convenait guères au Duc de Brunswick) tandis que je savais, pour sûr, que le Roi préférait le Comte Goetzen. Je pris l'occasion pour dire, que malgré la haute idée que j'avais des talens militaires du Général Phull, et mon amitié personelle pour lui, je le croyais peu fait pour une mission pareille, à cause de son extrême vivacité et impétuosité. Par la facilité avec laquelle le Comte de Haugwiz adopta cette observation, je m'apperçus que le projet en lui-même était encore loin de sa maturité, ou qu'on craignit de le mettre en train.

Il me parla ensuite de la Russic. Il dit que je pouvais être bien persuadé que jamais l'Empercur n'avait été plus prononcé pour la guerre; qu'il y mettait plus d'ardeur que la Prusse; que sans se borner aux négotiations amicales, il tiendrait un langage très énergique à ses voisins; qu'il ferait marcher trois armées, l'une vers la Silésie, la seconde vers la Gallicie, la troisième vers l'Italie; et qu'il déclarerait sans beaucoup de détours, qu'il ne suffrirait aucune neutralité.

Ces paroles me frapperent extrêmement; et ne pouvant pas en cacher ma surprise, je m'expliquai avec une vivacité analogue à l'impression qu'elles m'avaient faite. Je lui dis que, si je l'avais bien compris, je voyais se réproduire un systême qui déjà, dans une occasion précédente, avait extrainé les plus grands malheurs; que j'osais lui rappeller l'année dernière; que j'avais toujours été persuadé que le projet de forcer la Prusse à la guerre, était une des causes principales du triste résultat de la campagne de 1805 : que je frémissais en pensant que l'on pût s'aviser de renouveller ce projet contre l'Autriche; qu'il en résulterait certainement les mêmes désastres; que s'il existait un moyen de jetter l'Autriche, malgré elle, entre les bras de la France, il se trouverait dans une entreprise pareille; que je ne concevais pas comment un homme, aussi éclairé que lui, pouvait parler avec satisfaction de ce projet; qu'il me paraissait plûtôt que si un Prince, aussi juste et aussi magnanime que l'Empereur de Russie, avait pu le former réellement, il faudrait tout faire pour lui en montrer les dangers, puisque rien ne serait plus propre à détruire jusqu'à la possibilité d'une union entre les deux grandes puissances; sans laquelle cependant, je n'hésitérais pas à le dire, je regardais une guerre heureuse contre Buonaparte, comme la plus désespérée des chimères.

Le Comte de Haugwitz me parait étonné, et je puis bien ajoutèr, deconcerté de la chaleur avec laquelle j'avais parlé sur cet objet. Il reprit cependant bientôt sa contenance, et me répondit du ton le plus doux, que s'étant proposé de m'instruire de tout, il n'avait pas voulu me cacher cette circonstance; que j'aurais tort d'en être trop effrayé; qu'il supposait effectivement à l'Empereur de Russie le projet de n'admettre la neutralité de personne, mais que je pouvais bien croire qu'il l'executerait qu'avec toute la modération possible; que la Prusse, au reste, n'était pour rien dans ce projet, et que sa conduite discrète et reservée prouverait assez qu'elle ne voulait faire violence à personne; que rien n'était à craindre pour cette année-ci; que la saison était trop avançée pour que l'Empereur de Russic pût pousser ses troupes dans tant de directions à la fois ; et qu'il fallait espérer que vers le printemps la chose aurait pris, de toutes parts, une tournure si avantageuse, que sans aucun moyen violent, il ne serait plus question de neutralité.

Vers le soir je suis allé chez Lombard, qui outre ses infirmités permanentes avait eu un accés de fievre très fort, et venait de demander au Roi la permission de retourner à Berlin. Il s'est engagé dans une conversation, qui m'a paru particulièrement remarquable, et dont j'ai eu soin de ne pas perdre un mot.

Après s'être plaint de ses souffrances physiques, il m'a dit tout à coup: "Ah, si vous saviez tout ce que j'ai éprouvé "dans un autre genre, depuis quelques années, et surtout "dans les derniers six mois! On m'a dénoncé et maltraité "comme un scélérat; mon nom a couru toute l'Europe comme "celui d'un traitre vendu à Buonaparte. On a conspiré de "toutes parts, pour me faire renvoyer et punir; tous les Princes "de la Maison Royale, la Reine à leur tête, se sont ligués "contre moi. J'ai manqué de devenir le prétexte d'une

" véritable insurrection, qui aurait moralement détroné le Roi, "s'il avait montré un peu moins de fermeté. Ceux qui me "disaient vendu, savaient trop bien que je ne pouvais pas l'être. "Vous avez connu autrefois ma manière de vivre; elle est "toujours restée la même; j'ai toujours été pauvre comme "un rat d'église, à peine ma femme a-t-elle une chambre pour "recevoir quelques amis; quant à moi un mauvais fauteuil "et une pipe ont été le maximum de mes besoins. Il vaudrait "la peine d'être un coquin, pour vivre comme un misérable. "Il en est tout de même de Haugwiz. Il a à peine de quoi "fournir à la dépense d'une maison bien chétive, il est criblé "de dettes. Il fallait toute la rage du public contre nous, "pour inventer une calomnie aussi ridicule. "est que depuis deux ans on voulait la guerre. Je savais "bien qu'elle était inevitable ; d'un mois à l'autre j'en calculais "la probabilité croissante. Depuis la fin de l'année dernière "nous n'y échappions plus que par des tours de force, par "des expédients désespérés, comme tous ces maudits traités: "enfin je m'appercevais que l'heure fatale allait sonner; et "elle aurait sonné cette fois-ci, soyez en sûr, même sans les "déclamations du Prince Louis."

Mais je ne conçois plus, lui ai-je dit, comment, avec cette persuasion intime de l'improbabilité d'échapper à la guerre, vous avez pu laisser passer tant d'époques décisives où le Roi aurait pu s'y porter sous les auspices les plus avantageux.

Il m'a repondu: "Demandez-le au Comte de Haugwiz; "demandez-le à Lucchesini; demandez-le à ceux qui veulent "être de bonne foi parmi ces fameux chefs d'opposition. "doivent tous vous dire quelle a été depuis long tems mon "opinion personelle. Il est vrai, et je vous en fais mon triste "aveu, j'ai été un moment la dupe du monstre qui désole la "terre. Lorsque je l'ai vu à Bruxelles en 1803, il m'a gagné "bien moins par ses cajoleries, que par l'idée qu'il avait su "m'inspirer de la grandeur, et de noblesse de son caractère, " par son langage philanthropique et pacifique, par l'hypocrisie avec laquelle il parlait de la Prusse, et de son attachement "particulier pour elle. L'illusion n'a pas duré long tems. "L'année 1803 n'était pas finie que mon rêve fut passé. Depuis " ce moment-là je n'ai plus varié, j'ai vu que ce démon incarné " poursuivrait son affreuse carrière jusqu'à la déstruction de "tout ce qui existait; et chaque fois que son charlatanisme "impudent en a imposé encore à quelques bonnes ames, j'en " ai été désolé; mais je ne pouvais rien faire, ni d'autres plus " que moi."

J'allais lui demander l'explication d'un pareil phénomène,

mais il m'a prévenu en disant:

"Je prévois toutes les objections; le moment est trop précieux pour faire des demi-confidences; et d'ailleurs, si vous pouviez même me compromettre, je suis au-dessus de la crainte, car je sens que je touche au tombeau. Vous vous étonnez qu'avec tant de motifs puissants, je n'aie pas

"insisté sur un changement de systême. Connaissez-vous " le Roi? Ma justification toute entière est dans cette question; "j'aurais bien voulu vous voir à ma place. Qu'auriez-vous fait "pour engager à la guerre, un souverain qui en déteste l'idée, "et qui, pour comble de malheur, ne se croit pas la capacité "de la faire. Voilà le grand secret de toutes nos irrésolutions, "et de tous nos embarras. La monarchie prussienne n'est pas "organisée comme d'autres états. Chez nous, en tems de "guerre toutes les branches du Gouvernement doivent se "concentrer dans l'armée. Le Roi ne peut donc pas en confier le commandement à un autre. Il ne serait plus rien, s'il "ne paraissait pas à la tête de ses troupes. Eh bien, ce Roi, "que personne n'apprécie et n'adore comme moi, a le malheur "de n'être pas né général. Depuis long tems il a vu comme les autres, que l'état actuel des choses ne pouvait pas durer, "que, bon gré mal gré, il serait obligé de tircr l'épée; mais il "a toujours capitulé avec lui-même. Il s'est toujours flatté " que quelque catastrophe étrangère à ses résolutions viendrait "resoudre le problème. Quand, à la fin, les embarras se "sont multipliés, quand tout le pays a demandé à grands "cris, un autre systême; quand il a vu le moment où il resterait "seul de son avis, il s'est rendu; mais bien à son corps défen-"dant, je vous en réponds. Ce serait un très grand malheur "s'il voulait aujourd'hui rétracter. Il ne le peut même "plus; mais croyez-vous que je suis sans crainte pour le "résultat. Hélas, je me félicite presque de mes infirmités, "puisqu'elles me fournissent un motif honorable pour m'en aller. Les plus noirs présentimens me tourmentent. Si je "pouvais lire dans votre ame je les retrouverais peutêtre; mais je ne veux pas même savoir ce que vous en pensez. "L'armée est belle et brave ; mais où est l'ame puissante qui "en dirige les mouvemens. Vous ne croyez plus, j'espère, "au Duc de Brunswick? Et quelle idée pouvez vous avoir "de ses plans. Peut-être que la faiblesse physique amortit "en moi le courage et l'espoir. Mais quoiqu'il en soit, je ne "veux pas être présent à l'explosion. Un premier revers "suffirait pour me tuer; me faire enterrer à Berlin est tout "ce que je désire." If avait dit ces derniers mots avec une émotion extrême. Je le vis très épuisé. Je ne voulais pas prolonger une conversation qui d'ailleurs m'en avait déjà trop appris ; j'ai saisi le premier prétexte pour le quitter. J'ai été passer la dernière partie de la soirée avec M. de Lucchesini. J'ai taché de ramener la conversation sur l'histoire

J'ai été passer la derniere partie de la soiree avec M. de Lucchesini. J'ai taché de ramener la conversation sur l'histoire des traités de Vienne et de Paris. J'ai demandé de nouveaux éclaircissemens; ils m'ont été très liberalement accordés,

et en voici la substance.

Tout a concouru pour entrainer le Comte de Haugwiz dans la première de ces transactions. Sa position isolée à Vienne; son ignorance en fait d'opérations militaires; son manque de courage; enfin son amour propre. On l'effraya par toutes sortes de contes. On lui fit croire que les Français

entreraient incessamment en Silésie; qu'ils feraient la révolution en Pologne; qu'ils prendraient la monarchie Prussienne à revers. Tantôt on les disait à Neiss, tantôt à Breslau. Les premiers huit jours après la bataille d'Austerlitz, il avait été traité avec beaucoup de froideur. Tout à coup Napoléon le fait chercher, et lui dit "Eh bien, vous savez "que les jours se succédent, mais ne se ressemblent pas: "j'ai voulu vous faire la guerre. Aujourd'hui je vous offre "le Hanovre." Depuis ce moment là, il ne cessa plus de le carresser de toutes les manières. Il lui répéta à plusieurs reprises que l'estime personelle qu'il avait pour lui ne se démentirait jamais; que dans toutes les conversations épineuses il n'avait qu' à s'addresser à lui directement, que toutes les difficultés s'applaniraient facilement entr'eux. La fausse sécurité qu'il lui inspira par ces propos le suivait encore dans son voyage à Paris. Ce fut un grand malheur, me dit le Marquis, que le Comte de Haugwiz se flattait réellement "d'avoir cet homme dans sa poche." Lorsqu'il arriva à Paris, au commencement de fevrier, il disait à M. de Lucchesini, déjà très inquiet de la position équivoque où l'on se trouvait, "Soyez tranquile, aussitôt que je l'aurai vu, tout s'arrangera; "je sais ce qu'il me dit à Vienne." Je fus très capot lorsque cinq jours s'étaient passés sans qu'il eût pu obtenir une audience. Il eut à la fin, elle fut terrible. Napoléon le managea si peu, lui lacha des choses si dures, que ne sachant plus où donner de la tête, M. de Haugwiz osa enfin lui rappeller les belles promesses dont il avait tant de fois bercé à Vienne. Sur cela Napoléon se modérant un peu lui dit: "A la bonne "heure, je vous estime; je vous estimerai toujours; mais "je ne veux pas être joué. A-t-on jamais vu faire des "modifications à un traité, tout en le ratifiant? Qu'est "ce que cette manière de ratifier. Vous êtes un honnête "homme M. de Haugwiz; mais vous n'avez plus de crédit "à Berlin. Ce Hardenberg qui s'est vendu aux Anglais "comme tant d'autres, se moque de vous. Votre Roi ne "sait pas ce qu'il veut; quelques écervelés le poussent à la "guerre; il désire la paix, il est tiraillé en tout les sens; je "crains que cela ne finisse mal."

Il lui dit finalement qu'il n'avait qu'à s'addresser à Talleyrand, à qui il ferait connaître sa volonté. Presque anéanti, il commença enfin à sc douter de sa position critique. Il cut, pcu de jours après, en présence de M. de Lucchesini, une conférence avec Talleyrand, qui leur annonça, que comme le traité de Vienne était détruit par les modifications que le Roi de Prusse y avait mises, il en fallait un tout nouveau; et le lendemain arriva, à la grande surprise de M. de Haugwiz, M. Duroc, avec un traité tout fait, lequel, après une discussion très longue et très orageuse, fut signé avec quelques changemens : c'est ce traité que le Marquis de Lucchesini porta à Berlin.

Ce ne fut que dans la conférence susdite que Talleyrand leur déclara, pour la première fois, que Clèves et Berg étaient

destinés à Murat. Dans les négotiations de Vienne, ils avaient fait entendre au Comte de Haugwiz que Clèves serait donné à un Prince d'Allemagne. (N.B. Le Duc de Brunswick se flattait pendant quelque tems que ce serait lui, ce qui n'influa pas peu sur sa conduite.) Quant à Berg, il avait même complétement ignoré qu'ils avaient exigé ce pays de la Bavière, pendant qu'ils demandaient Clèves à la Prusse. Ce traité de Paris, au reste, fut si bien reconnu pour ce qu'il était, que le Comte de Haugwitz avait peur de le porter à Berlin.

J'ai dit au Marquis que son récit m'expliquait parfaitement, mais était loin de justifier à mes yeux la conduite du Comte de Haugwiz; que selon moi, tout autre à sa place, plutôt que de s'engager dans des défilés, aurait quitté Vienne le lendemain de la bataille d'Austerlitz, et Paris après la première audience; mais je l'ai prié en même tems de m'expliquer une autre circonstance, que je comprenais moins encore que tout le reste. Pourquoi, si la force, et les menaces les avaient seules déterminés à signer des conditions aussi odieuses que celle de l'occupation définitive de l'Electorat d'Hanovre, et de la cloture des ports contre le commerce anglais, ils n'avaient pas du moins essayé d'entamer quelque négociation secrète avec le Cabinet de Londres, pour lui faire connaitre leurs véritables intentions, et éviter l'inconvénient et le scandale d'une rupture ouverte avec l'Angleterre. J'ai protesté d'avance, contre l'argument banal de l'indiscrétion du Cabinet de Londres; quelques cas particuliers où des Gouvernemens étrangers ont pu être compromis, ne prouvant rien, et tout le monde étant bien persuadé que ce Cabinet sait garder son secret aussi strictement qu'un autre; et comme d'ailleurs ils ne cessaient de me dire que dès lors ils regardaient comme inévitable une guerre avec la France, j'ai ajouté qu'un simple soupçon de plus n'aurait pas essentiellement détérioré leur situation.

Il m'a avoué sans hésiter que c'était une faute capitale que de n'avoir rien fait pour s'entendre avec le gouvernement Anglais, et pour prévenir la rupture; que cette faute tenait en premier lieu à l'indolence, et à la nonchalance du Comte de Haugwiz; mais que l'irritation qui regnait, a cette époque, entre les deux parties qui divisaient le Cabinet de Berlin, y avait beaucoup contribué aussi; que M. de Hardenberg, au lieu d'applanir les obstacles, moyennant la bonne opinion qu'on avait de lui en Angleterre, les augmentait et les chvenimait plûtôt, pour mettre le Comtc de Haugwiz dans tout son tort, et le perdre dans l'opinion publique par l'effet fâcheux que devait produire une guerre avec l'Angleterre; que le Comte Schulemberg agissait dans le même sens; que par dépit, par l'animosité, il précipitait la mesure de la fermeture des ports; et l'exécutait avec une rigueur au-délà même des prétentions du Gouvernement français ; disant : "Qu'il n'était pas fait "pour les demi-mesures." Que la mésintelligence entre le Comte de Haugwiz, et M. Jackson y entrait de même pour beaucoup; et que tous ces mobiles secondaires avaient complétement opéré pour améner la déclaration de guerre, avant que le Comte de Haugwiz, avec sa lenteur et sa négligence

habituelles, eût pu prendre un parte à cet égard.

Cette explication m'a paru assez satisfaisante; je crois qu'il ne lui manquait qu'un seul trait pour être complete : c'est que, parmi les ministres prussiens il y en a eu plusieurs qui, en désapprouvant même les moyens par lesquels on s'était emparé du pays d'Hanovre, attachait un très grand prix à cette acquisition; et préféraient la chance d'une guerre avec l'Angleterre, à une négotiation qui leur eut enlevé la perspective de conserver ce pays.

Le Marquis m'a beaucoup parlé ce soir sur le caractère de Buonaparte. Il m'en a raconté une quantité d'anecdotes intéressantes. Ce journal n'étant proprement destiné qu'à receuillir ce qui regarde la grande affaire du jour, je me bornerai

à en citer quelques-unes.

Un jour, en voyant M. de Bréteuil, Napoléon lui dit. " vous ai toujours cru un homme d'esprit M. de Bréteuil, mais "il y a des choses dans votre histoire que je ne puis pas "concilier avec cette idée." Breteuil, s'imaginant qu'il allait lui parler de ses liaisons avec les Princes de Bourbon, et des différents commissions dont il avait été chargé par eux, eut la platitude de s'en excuser en disant. "Qu'il avait cru "que ses anciens services le liaient à la cause de ces Princes" Napoléon tout étonné l'interrompit: "Comment donc, M. de "Bretcuil; je ne vous entends pas; je n'ai jamais voulu "vous faire un reproche pareil; en cela vous avez fait votre "devoir. Je voulais vous parler du scandale de cette affaire "du collier, dans laquelle, à ce qu'on assure, vous avez agi " par pure animosité personelle contre le Cardinal de Rohan." L'autre se justifia de son mieux; mais Napoléon finit par lui dire; "J'ai toujours regardé comme les trois causes " principales de la ruine de la monarchie, la bataille de Rosbach, "l'affaire du collier, et la conduite de la Cour dans les troubles "de la Hollande."

Il y a des personnes qui prétendent avoir vu Buonaparte au Château de Thuilleries le 10 Août, 1792, avec l'intention de combattre pour le Roi. Elles ajoutent que lorsqu'il a vu que les partisans du Roi ne savaient pas défendre leur cause, il reprit son allure révolutionnaire, et se proposa dés ce jour funcste de jouer un rôle à lui seul.

Lorsque son frère Joseph lui demanda Roederer pour Ministre des Finances à Naples, il lui dit, "A la bonne heure, mais "je vous prie de ne pas oublier, que ce fut cet homme qui, le "10 Août, donna à Louis XVI le conseil de se rendre à la

"Convention."

Son dégout, et son mépris, pour ce qu'on appelle *Philosophes* percent à chaque occasion. Quand il apprit que les choses allaient mal à Naples, qu'on y mourrait de faim, que la nouvelle

Cour était sans le sou, il dit froidement: "C'est leur affaire, "voilà ce qui arrive aux pays qui sont gouvernés par de

" Philosophes."

Rien n'est plus plaisant que la manière dont il traite son ancien collègue le fameux Siéyès: "Eh bien M. Siéyès, comment "va la métaphysique? Que disent les Philosophes de tout "ceci M. Siéyès?" Voilà le ton qu'il prend avec lui. Siéyès, de son coté, s'est renfermé dans un silence impénétrable. Lorsqu'au sénat on délibérait sur un objet critique, il faisait semblant de dormir; quand il s'agissait de donner sa voix, on le reveillait. Alors il avait l'air de se recueillir. "Quoi, "Consulat à vie? Oh rien n'est plus juste." Une autre fois: "Dignité Impériale à conférer, héréditaire n'est-ce "pas? Il n'y a pas à balancer. . . ."

M. de Lucchesini me disait encore que si, par quelque évènement que ce fût, Joseph montait au trône, et eut la force de s'y soutenir, la paix du monde serait bientot rétablie; qu'il parlait de science certaine en disant que Joseph ne ferait pas la moindre difficulté de rendre toute l'Italie, de rétablir la maison de Savoie, ct de laisser l'Allemagne en repos.

Avant de m'en aller je lui racontai combien j'avais été frappé de ce que le Comte de Haugwiz m'avait dit de l'attitude ménaçante que la Russie devait prendre contre ses voisins; et je lui fis mes représentations sur cet objet, dans le même sens dans lequel j'avais parlé au Comte de Haugwiz. Il me dit qu'il était persuadé que le Comte de Haugwiz avait beaucoup exagéré la chose; que, quant à lui, il n'en croyait rien, et qu'il en parlerait au Roi à la première occasion qui se présenterait.

Mardi 8 Octobre. Sa Majesté la Reine avait désiré que je lui fusse présenté. Je devais avoir cet honneur ce matin; mais j'ai reçu en sortant un billet de M. le Chambellan Busch, qui m'a annoncé, que comme Madame la Grande Duchesse de Weimar, qui avait du partir aujourd'hui, prolongeait son

sejour jusqu'au soir, l'audience serait remise à demain.

On avait reçu dans la nuit, par le Capitaine Muffling, un des aides-de-camp du Duc de Weimar, que celui-ci avait envoyé pour faire une reconnaissance, la première nouvelle authentique par rapport au mouvement des Français. On a su qu'ils avaient entièrement quitté les environs de Wurtzbourg, et Schweinfurt, et que toutes leurs forces étaient du coté de Bamberg. Sur cela, l'ordre a été donné à tout ce qui se trouvait de troupes du coté de Gotha et Eisenach, de retourner en toute hâte à Erfurth, pour se porter sur la Sâle, et les corps de Rüchel et de Blücher ont reçu celui de suivre ce mouvement.

Je me suis entretenu avec tout ce que j'ai rencontré de militaires pour obtenir des éclaircissemens sur cette mesure subite. J'étais considérablement surpris de ce qu'il eût fallu la découverte du Capitaine Muffling pour apprendre aux Généraux prussiens une chose qui, selon mes faibles lumières,

aurait du être prévue depuis long tems,

Les Français avait le choix entre trois plans pour entamer et attaquer l'armée prussionne. Le premier était celui de forcer les défilés de la forêt de Thuringue, et d'enfoncer le centre de leur position. Mais comme on ne leur connaisait guères le principe de saisir leur ennemi par le coté où il désirait qu'ils le saississent, on n'était point autorisé à leur prêter un plan de cette espèce. Ce fut là cependant, à en juger d'après plusieurs données, la supposition de plus d'un homme marquant, et peut-être du Duc de Brunswick lui-même. Je me rappelle très distinctement que dans ma fameuse conversation avec M. de Kalkreuth, ce général, un des plus sages, des plus instruits, des plus expérimentés, avait trace sur la carte une ligne entre Königshofen et Neustadt, (en avant de Schweinfurt sur la Sâle de Franconie), disant que selon tout ce qu'on savait, et c'était le 4 Octobre, les Français avaient pris cette position. Je n'ai pas besoin d'ajouter à quel point l'hypothèse était chimérique. Le second plan possible des Français était celui de tourner l'armée prussienne sur la droite, pour gagner par Fulda, Eichsfeld, le chemin de Magdebourg. Si un pareil projet avait été concu, il se serait infailliblement annoncé par quelque grand rassemblement de forces du coté de Francfort, et par quelque tentative sensible, de pénétrer dans la Hesse et dans le pays de Fulda. Mais aucun symtôme quelconque, aucune réunion, pas le moindre mouvement de ce coté n'avait pu en faire naitre le soupçon. Il ne restait donc que la troisième hypothèse, qu'ils tourneraient les Prussiens par leur gauche, et tacheraient de se précipiter sur la Saxe. Tout se réunissait pour la probabilité, ou plûtôt pour la certitude de ce projet; et malgré la déplorable ignorance qui regnait au quartiergénéral sur les vrais mouvemens de l'ennemi, les données généralement connues suffisaient pour les calculer et pour les prévoir. Quel sujet donc de tristes réflexions que cet ordre tardif du 8 Octobre, pour opérer un révirement général, qui aurait du avoir lieu huit jours plus-tôt, et dont on aurait été entièrement dispensé, si, d'abord, en se décidant à la guerre, on en avait su déterminer le caractère, la marche, et le but.

Le fait est que toute cette dislocation, moyennant laquelle le tiers de l'arméc prussienne se trouvait entre Gotha et la Werra, tenait à des idées vagues et mal dirigées de quelque grand mouvement en avant, par lequel on se serait porté sur le Meyn. Si on avait eu la génie et le courage de débuter par ce même mouvement, bientôt tout aurait changé de face. On aurait alors forcé les Français à établir le théâtre de la guerre sur les points que les Prussiens auraient choisis, et de renoncer à l'envahissement de la Saxe, ou d'affaiblir leurs opérations en les multipliant. Tel avait été le plan proposé par les hommes les plus éclairés et les plus capables. Mais au lieu de l'embrasser à tems, on n'avait fait que flotter sans cesse entre un systême maladroitement défensif, et le projet d'une campagne offensive; et rien n'était arrêté à cet êgard,

lorsque déjà un ennemi entreprenant, familiarisé depuis long tems avec la victoire, en concentrant toutes ses forces sur un

point, eut simplifié et tranché la question.

Je m'apperçus bientôt que parmi les officiers à qui je parlais, il n'y en eut pas un seul qui, quelle que fût son opinion particulière, n'envisageat le fond de la chose comme je viens de le présenter ici. Ce que j'entendis de plus satisfaisant, fut toujours l'observation stérile, que rien n'était encore perdu, que quelque pût être le dessein de l'ennemi, on aurait tout ce qu'il faudrait de tems et de moyens, pour le faire échouer.

Mais au milieu des discussions à ce sujet, il se manifesta une nouvelle erreur, plus pernicieuse que toutes les précédentes; puisqu'elle était plus généralement répandue; et puisqu'elle ouvrait directement l'abime qui, quelques jours plus tard, a tout englouti. En demandant au Général Phull, c'est à dire à un des premiers militaires de l'armée, ce qu'il pensait de l'état des choses, et du plan que l'armée commençait à développer, il me répondit littéralement ce qui suit : "Sauf " ma protestation générale et invariable contre l'idée d'une "campagne défensive, je crois que le projet des Français de "s'avancer par la route de Bareuth, est le plus avantageux " pour nous qu'ils aient pu adopter ; c'est celui que je leur aurais "indiqué moi-même, s'ils m'avaient demandé mon avis."

Pour comprendre comment un homme intelligent a pu tenir un langage pareil, il faut savoir, que tout le monde sans exception était dans la ferme persuasion que les Français prenaient la route de Hoff pour se porter en droiture sur Dresde, par Plauen et Zwickau, et que ni Phull, ni qui que ce soit leur avait jamais supposé le plan de déboucher entre la Sâle et l'Elster, de se diriger sur Nauembourg, et de tourner de si près l'aile gauche de l'armée prussienne. On s'imaginait, tout au plus, que quelque colonne détachée entamerait la route de la Gera, pour menacer les magazins prussiens et se porter dans la plaine de Leipsig: et on crut qu'après avoir aisement déjoué cette entreprise, on envellopperait le corps principal de l'ennemi dans sa marche téméraire sur Dresde, et qu'on finirait ainsi le premier acte de la guerre.

Il est sûr, au reste, que si le Prince de Hohenloe, micux placé que tout autre pour reconnaitre à tems que l'ennemi méditait réellement le plan que personne n'avait voulu lui attribuer, au lieu de rétirer ses forces, et de concentrer sa position, s'était vigoureusement porté en avant, pour occuper les principaux passages, et que l'armée du centre cût promptement secondé ce mouvement, il y aurait eu moyen de défendre l'entrée du vallon de la Sâle, et de déconcerter les projets de l'ennemi; et sous ce rapport-là, malgré toutes les fautes antérieures, il était peut-être permis de soutenir, le 8 Octobre,

que rien n'était encore perdu.

Le Comte Goetzen et venu chez moi à midi. Il m'a assuré qu'il n'avait jamais vu le Roi aussi content qu'il l'avait été ce matin; qu'il lui avait dit: "Dieu soit loué! Voilà du F 34

"moins cette maudite incertitude finie. Nous savons à quoi "nous en tenir, nous nous battrons!" Il a ajouté que, quant à lui, il n'avait jamais désespéré du Roi; que le connaissant mieux que personne (il a été élevé avec lui) il savait qu'une excessive timidité, et une défiance injuste de ses propres moyens, étaient, au fond, les seuls défauts de ce Prince; que pour peu il remportât un succès, il deviendrait un autre homme. Il a vivement déploré la résolution de confier le commandement au Duc de Brunswick. C'était la première fois que le Comte Goetzen me parla sur ce ton. Jusqu'ici, il avait été le seul qui, au lieu de partager mes craintes, les eût plûtôt combattues; trop fortement attaché au Roi, trop profondement intéressé au succès, il n'avait jamais pu se résoudre à convenir de la défectuosité radicale de l'entreprise. Je vis donc que c'était la force de la vérité qui, à la fin, lui en arracha Ainsi, lui dis-je, l'opinion générale du Duc de Brunswick est finalement la votre aussi? Il me répondit: "Mon opinion a toujours été que cet homme est né pour le "malheur de la monarchie prussienne; ne m'en demandez "davantage." Cette réponse n'était pas faite pour m'encourager.

Ce qui ne fut guères plus, était une visite que je reçus peu après de MM. de Montjoye et de Sartoris, l'un Chambellan du Duc de Brunswick, l'autre son Ministre résident près la Cour de Berlin; tous deux fort attachés à sa personne, mais chantant, ce jour-là, ses éloges sur un ton qui me paraissait préluder à des défaites bien plus qu'à des victoires. Après une conversation générale ils m'ont demandé si, une fois au quartier-général, je ne voulais pas me présenter chez le Duc; ajoutant qu'il avait parlé de moi à plusieurs reprises, et qu'il me recevrait certainement avec plaisir. Loin de décliner cette proposition, j'avais un grand intérêt à l'accepter: ils

se chargerent de m'annoncer pour ce soir.

J'ai diné chez le Comte de Haugwiz avec M. de Lucchesini, les Ministres de Saxe, et de Hesse, M. de Cesar, ci-devant envoyé de Prusse à la Haye, M. de Schladen, M. de Böhm de la légation prussienne à Paris, et des autres. Après diner le Comte de Haugwiz m'a prié, au nom du Roi, de rédiger une proclamation à l'armée, sur l'objet et le caractère de la guerre; une autre adresse au public de la monarchie prussienne dans le même sens; et, ce que me parut assez bizarre, une prière pour être récitée dans les églises. (N.B. Ces deux pièces n'ont jamais vu le jour.) Il me demanda, ensuite, si je ne voulais pas écrire à Vienne? Je lui répondis que j'étais trop occupé de ce qui se passait autour de moi, et trop peu recueilli pour écrire des lettres : la chose en resta là pour cette fois-ci.

Lorsque je fus rentré chez moi, M. de Lombard est venu me faire une visite. Il était un peu mieux, et assez bien pour se faire porter. Il m'a parlé de nouveau avec beaucoup de franchise. Il m'a dit que le Roi venait de lui dire qu'il remettait encore pour quelque tems l'envoi d'un officier à

Vienne; qu'il ne fallait pas trop presser eette Cour; qu'il était parfaitement content de ce qu'il savait de ses dispositions. "Je ne sais pas, a-t-il continué, si nous devons également "bien augurer de celle de Londres; je ne suis pas sans "inquiétudes à cet égard." J'ai observé que je ne concevais pas ce qui pouvait lui avoir inspiré ces inquiétudes ; et comment l'extrême facilité avec laquelle le Gouvernement Anglais avait consenti à envoyer un négotiateur ne les avait pas complétement calmées. Il m'a répondu qu'elles étaient fondées sur l'accueil très froid que leurs premières ouvertures avaient trouvé à Londres; et sur ce qu'il croyait présenter que l'Angleterre leur ferait de bien dures conditions. "Ce serait "malheureux" a-t-il poursuivi, "mais nous saurions prendre "notre parti. Avec l'esprit dont aujourd'hui le pays est "animé partout, nous ne manquerions pas de ressources "pécuniaires; et quoique peu versé moi-même dans ees "objets, je sais par ce que d'autres m'ont dit, que nous "pourrions faire une ou deux campagnes, sans recevoir des subsides de l'étranger." J'allais produire mes objections lorsqu'il m'a interrompu pour ajouter avec beaucoup de vivaeité : "Quoiqu'il en soit, les ministres anglais se "rendraient bien responsables, s'ils pouvaient sacrifier à un " point d'honneur outré, ou à un ressentiment particulier, la plus " belle oecasion qu'ils aient encore eue pour eo-opérer à l'affran-"chissement de l'Europe. Ils feraient un mauvais calcul "dans tous les cas; vainqueur ou vaincu, le Roi de Prusse "trouverait toujours le moyen de leur faire regretter une jour "une indifférence cruelle, ou une opiniâtreté déplacée."

Ce langage que je ne pouvais attribuer qu'à des prêventions invétérées contre l'Angleterre, ou au trouble d'une mauvaise conseience se roidissant de loin contre des obstacles dont elle ne se sentait que trop responsable, me parut tout-à-fait extraordinaire. Il me parut, de plus, particulièrement dangéreux dans la bouehe de eelui qui influait de la manière la plus directe sur les opinions personelles du Roi; et dans un moment où la Prusse ne pouvait expier ses torts que par la condêscendance la plus illimitée. Je crus donc devoir le rélever sans beaucoup de ménagement. Je lui dis que je trouvais ces plaintes non seulemeot prématures, mais eneore arbitraires et injustes; que selon moi le Gouvernement anglais avait fait preuve d'une magnanimité peu eommune, en se prêtant sur le champ à une négotiation avec une Puissance qui l'avait si cruellement offensé; que le soupçon d'un ressentiment particulier ne pouvait pas même atteindre les hommes publics de l'Angleterre; que celui d'une indifférence cruelle sur le sort du Continent serait exclu par leur intérèt évident, s'il ne l'était pas par la libéralité de leurs principes; et que, quant à ce qu'il eraignait de leur opiniâtreté, je ne voyais pas même sur quoi pouvait porter cette plainte, puisque, si j'étais bien instruit, on leur avait, du moins éventuellement, offert la réstitution du seul objet sur lequel ils pourraient s'opiniatrer. J'ai ajouté qu'il ne pouvait pas ignorer qu'il y avait à peine quinze jours que l'Europe était encore remplie d'incrédules sur la sincérité du changement inattendu, survenu dans le systême de la Prusse; que j'aurais été moi-même de ce nombre, si des cireonstances particulières ne m'avaient pas mis dans le eas d'en reconnaitre à tems la réalité; que loin d'être surpris de l'accueil froid qu'il disait avoir été fait à Londres, à leurs premières propositions, je ne revenais pas de mon étonnement de ce que l'Angleterre y était entré si tôt: que si le Comte de Haugwiz, au lieu de m'annoncer l'arrivée prochaine d'un négotiateur anglais, m'eut annoncé la conclusion de la paix entre l'Angleterre et la France, je n'en aurais été que médiocrement frappé; et que si un contretems pareil avait coincidé avec le moment où une nouvelle guerre continentale allait éclater, je soutiendrais encore qu'il serait souverainement injuste d'en accuser le Gouvernement anglais.

Ces observations ont paru le faire rentrer en lui-même, il a changé de ton. Il s'est rappellé, en plaisantant, d'anciennes discussions que nous avons eues à Berlin sur la politique anglaise, et m'a dit, qu'au moins je ne lui ferais pas le tort qu'il donnait encore dans les trivialités des de eroire * (nommant des personnages ridicules que nous avons eonnues autrefois) "sur l'or et les intrigues de Pitt, les horreurs "de la tyrannie maritime." Puis il a passé brusquement à la Russie, en me disant; "Vous m'avouerez, au reste, "qu'il est difficile de trouver un allié comme celui que nous "avons dans cet Empereur de Russie." Il s'est expliqué en me racontant, qu'en réponse au premier avis que le Roi lui avait donné de ses intentions, l'Empereur lui avait écrit une lettre qui serait un monument éternel de sa grandeur d'âme; qu'il avait déclaré dans cette lettre, qu'il ne s'agissait, entre lui et la Prusse, ni de négotiations ni de stipulations; qu'il ne lui demanderait pas même ce qu'il comptait faire en eas de succès; qu'il s'en remettrait absolument à lui; que la seul chose qui l'intéressât, était de voir les Français bien et dûement battus; que pour cet effet, il offrait au Roi la totalité de ses forces, et de l'argent même s'il en avait besoin; qu'il saurait bien trouver le moyen de réaliser toutes ces promesses.

Je lui repliquai qu'avee l'idée infiniment respectable que j'avais eue depuis long tems du caractère de l'Empereur de Russie, je ne pouvais que féliciter la Prusse de ses dispositions à son égard, désirant sculement, du fond de mon âme, que eelle-ci n'eût rien negligé pour que les secours qu'elle attendait

de sa part, arrivassent avant qu'il fût trop tard.

A six heures du soir, j'ai fait ma visite chez le Duc de Brunswiek. J'ai passé une demi-heure avec lui. Cette entrevue ne fut guères remarquable par les choses qui y furent traitées; ear, en vérité, ec que le Due me dit, se reduisit à des phrases de valeur intrinsiques; mais elle fut extrêmement intéressante par l'occasion qu'elle me fournissait d'examiner de près l'homme qui me parlait, et de le confronter, pour ainsi dire, avec l'opinion

peu favorable que tant de juges compétens avait prononeèe sur lui. Je proteste, qu'en me dégageant, autant qu'un homme peut le faire, de toute prévention établie eontre ee Prinee; et décidé à le juger comme si je n'avais jamais entendu parler de lui, je l'ai trouvé tels que les autres l'avaient caractérisé; et absolument au dessous de sa tâche.

Il y avait dans toute sa manière d'être, dans sa contenance, dans ses regards, dans ses gestes, dans son langage. quelque chose de mal assuré, de louche, d'impuissant; une agitation, qui m'annoneait rien moins que la confiance de ses forces, un genre de politesse qui semblait d'avance demander pardon des revers qui devaient lui arriver; une modestie outrée, qui ne pouvait être qu'une affectation toute pure, ou excès de crainte de ne pouvoir pas répondre à l'attente publique. Il s'arrêta d'abord longtems à me dire des choses flatteuses, ce qui dans une aussi grande occasion, où je l'aurais cru trop occupé pour penser à des compliments. me parut tout-à-fait déplacé, et m'impatienta furieusement. A la fin il entra en matière; et ce fut pour se lamenter beaucoup sur ce qu'on avait cru toujours pouvoir négocier et transiger avec Buonaparte; lieu commun bien bisarre dans la bouehe d'un homme qui, plus qu'aucun autre, avait prôné et nourri cet Îl se mit à parler ensuite de l'Autriche, disant que quoique tout-à-fait étranger aux mesures et combinaisons politiques, il soupçonnait cependant qu'on n'avait pas songé assez tôt à entamer une négotiation avec cette puissance, ni employer tous les moyens convenables pour s'assurer de son concours; lequel était pourtant d'une nécessité indispensable. Enfin il parla de la guerre, mais toujours en homme qui n'aurait rien eu de commun avec elle ; qui se serait tout au plus réservé le rôle de juger ce que d'autres y feraient. Quoique fort embarrassé dans cette conversation, je cherchai, de tems en tems, des tournures pour lui donner un caractère plus prononcé, mais je ne pus jamais y parvenir. Il me répéta une fois après l'autre, d'un ton qui achevait de me déconcerter, "pourvu qu'on ne fasse pas de grandes fautes;" et lorsqu'enfin je pris la liberté de lui dire : "Mais, Monseigneur, tout le monde "doit espérer qu'on n'en fera pas sous votre direction," il me répondit, "Helas! Je puis à peine répondre de moi-même, comment voulez-vous que je réponde des autres?" propos qui contrastait bien singulièrement avec sa situation, et les sentimens qui auraient du le pénétrer à la veille d'aussi grands évènements. Nous fumes interrompus par l'arrivée de plusieurs officiers qu'on annonça, et je me sentis si peu à mon aise, que je saisis avec empressement cette occasion favorable pour partir. En déscendant l'escalier de l'auberge. j'ai été arrété pendant plusieurs minutes par une quantité d'hommes qui en obstruaient toutes les avenues; et je me suis livré aux réflexions les plus sombres, sur tout ce que cette eourte entrevue m'avait présenté de cruel dans l'avenir.

Il y eut ce jour-là à Erfurth un évènement très insignifiant en lui-même, mais qui semblait plus occuper le quartier général, que ne l'avait pu faire le gagne d'une bataille. Le Ministre de France, La Forêt, arriva tout-à-coup. On lui avait déclaré à Berlin, que comme le General Knobelsdorff avait été retenu à Mayence, on ne lui garantissait pas qu'il passerait les frontières de la Prusse; cependant, le Comte de Haugwiz l'a avoué lui-même, aucun ordre n'était donné pour lui refuser le passage; et si, avec les passeports qui lui avaient été délivrés pour quitter Berlin, il eut pris le chemin de Magdebourg et de Cassel, personne ne l'aurait empêché de sortir. Son arrivée à Erfurth était, à tout prendre, le comble de d'effrontérie. Tout le monde en convenait, et on n'avait qu'à lui signifier poliment l'endroit où on eut jugé convenable qu'il restât. Point du tout: des déliberations solemnelles s'ouvrirent. Les Ministres, le Duc de Brunswick, le Roi luimême, tout s'agita, comme si le problême le plus épineux était venu s'offrir à leurs méditations. Cette affaire eut l'air de faire oublier la guerre. Il fut enfin résolu, à neuf heures du soir, que M. et Madame la Forêt passeraient la nuit à Erfurth, sauf à délibérer de nouveau le lendemain sur les mesures définitives à adopter dans un cas aussi hérissé de difficultés.

Je me rendis chez M. de Lucchesini après cet incroyable conseil d'état. Je lui demandai si La Forêt était porteur de quelque commission importante, ou s'il avait fait, de son propre chef, quelque novelle ouverture de négotiation. me jura, en riant, que ni l'un ni l'autre était le cas; et je le savais bien, puisque la Forêt avait déclaré sincèrement luimême à des personnes que le rencontrerent en route, que depuis quinze jours il était sans nouvelles de Paris, et dans les plus terribles inquiétudes. Je témoignai donc tout mon étonnement de ce que, dans un moment aussi grave, on put attacher tant de prix, et sacrifier tant d'heures précieuses à un objet aussi peu de conséquence. M. de Lucchesini partageait complètement mon opinion. Il me dit que je reconnaitrais à cela un des plus malheureux défauts du Comte de Haugwiz; qu'il ne savait jamais mettre une juste proportion entre le tems qu'il consacrait à une affairc, et le dégré d'importance qu'elle pouvait avoir; et qu'une misère l'absorbait souvent aux dépens des plus grands intérêts.

Passant à d'autres objets, il m'a beaucoup parlé ce soir de l'étrange conduite de M. Oubril à Paris; de la sagesse, et de la dextérité de celle de Lord Lauderdale; des affaires de Naples, sur lesquelles, entr'autres, il est entré dans des détails qui ne pouvent pas trouver leur place ici, mais qui m'ont appris, en substance, que la Cour de Naples n'a pas à se reprocher le fameux traité de neutralité signé l'année dernière, dans un moment si malheureusement choisi; que le Marquis de Gallo l'avait négocié et conclu sans ordre ni instruction quelconque; que la peur et les menaces ont extorqué la ratification; qu'ainsi l'indigne trahison de ce ministre, couronné à la fin par un

engagement formel avec le nouveau governement, a été la

cause prochaine de la catastrophe finale de l'ancien.

Avant de partir je me suis déterminé, non pas sans quelque répugnance, à lui parler de l'impression que m'avait laissée ma visite chez le Duc de Brunswick. Je savais que quelque disposé qu'il pût être à sympathiser avec moi, à cet egard, (et je m'apperçus bien qu'il ne l'était que trop), il ne m'en parlerait jamais à cour ouvert; car, outre que le Duc occupait une place de trop de conséquence pour qu'il pu décemment convenir de son incapacité totale à la remplir, c'était le Duc encore qui avait suggéré au Roi de garder M. de Lucchesini auprès de sa personne; en quoi, vu l'ensemble des circonstances où il se trouvait, il avait rendu un service réel. Le Marquis, comme je l'avais prévu, tâcha donc de me rassurer de son mieux; mais il perdit absolument ses peines. Je le connaissais déjà trop pour mc méprendre sur son opinion secrète, et pour ne pas entrevoir à travers ses panegyriques officieux la confirmation déplorable de mes craintes.

Jeudi, 9, Octobre; à neuf heures, j'ai été introduit chez Sa Majesté la Reine. Dans la disposition où je me trouvais déjà, après tout ce que j'avais vu et entendu, avec des espérances bien plus faibles encore que celles que j'avais apportées au quartier-général, avec des inquiétudes sérieuses et toujours croissantes, je redoutais, je puis le dire, cette audience; j'avais tort. Au lieu de m'embarrasser, elle m'a plûtôt soulagé et rélevé; et si la confiance n'avait pas été que trop loin de moi, elle l'aurait fait rentrer dans mon coeur.

Depuis un an, j'avais entendu une infinité de bien de cette princesse. J'étais préparé à la trouver absolument différente de l'idée qu'on avait eue d'elle autrefois; mais je ne l'étais pas assez à cette réunion de grandes et de belles qualités qu'elle déploya dans chaque moment d'un entretien d'environ trois quarts d'heure. Elle s'exprima avec une précision, avec une fermeté, avec une énergie, et, en même tems, une mesure et une prudence, qui m'auraient enchanté dans un homme; et cependant elle répandit sur tout ce qu'elle disait, une teinte de sensibilité profonde, que ne me laissa pas oublier un instant que c'était une femme que j'admirais. Pas un mot qui ne fut à sa place; pas un sentiment, pas un réflexion qui ne fut d'une harmonie exquise avec le caractère général de ses discours; le tout un assemblage de dignité, de douceur, et de charmes, tel que je crus ne l'avoir jamais rencontré.

Elle me demanda d'abord ce que je pensais de cette guerre, et quel était mon espoir, en ajoutant aussitôt "Je ne vous "fais pas ces questions pour que vous m'inspiriez du courage; "je n'en manque pas, Dieu merci; et je sais d'ailleurs que "si vous aviez une mauvaise opinion, ce n'est pas à moi que "vous le diriez; mais j'aime à savoir sur quoi les hommes "en état de juger fondent leurs espérances, pour examiner "ensuite si leurs motifs s'accordent avec les miennes." Je lui dit tout ce qui se présentait à mon esprit, pour faire sortir

le beau coté de la chose. J'appuyais principalement sur l'état de l'opinion publique, sur les dispositions favorables des contemporains, sur les voeux qui s'élevaient de toutes les parties de l'Allemagne pour le suceès de l'entreprise de la Prusse. La Reine m'a répondu que, pendant long tems, elle avait nourri des doutes, et des doutes bien pénibles, sur la manière précisement dont le public, celui surtout des autres pays, envisagerait cette expédition, puisqu'elle ne savait que trop qu'on n'aimait pas la Prusse, et qu'elle comprenait aussi pourquoi on ne l'aimait pas. Mais que depuis quelques semaines elle avait appris là-dessus des choses qui la rassurait beaucoup; elle a ajouté: "vous connaissez le passé mieux "que moi; mais le moment n'est-il pas venu pour l'oublier?" Elle se mit ensuite à parler longuement sur la guerre de 1805; et quoiqu'il y eût dans tout ce qu'elle en disait quelque chose qui paraissait trahir au fond d'inquiétudes sécrètes, et de lugubres présentiments, cette partie de la conversation n'en fut pas moins, et peut-être, par cette même raison, la plus intéressante de toutes. Je fus étonné de l'exactitude avec laquelle elle parcourut tous les évènemens, cita chaque date, retraça les moindres détails; mais je fus également étonné, et vivement pénétré de l'intérèt, de la sensibilité, de l'émotion avec laquelle elle parla des malheurs de la Maison d'Autriche; plus d'une fois je vis ses yeux mouillés de larmes. Elle raconta entre autres, avec une simplicité touchante, que le jour où elle avait appris les premiers désastres de l'armée autrichienne, le Prince Royal son fils avait mis, pour la première fois, l'habit militaire; et qu'en le voyant elle lui avait dit "J'espère qu'au "jour où tu pourras faire usage de cet habit, la seule pensée qui t'occupera sera celle de venger tes malheureux frères." Elle s'informa avec beaucoup d'intérèt et de délicatesse de plusieurs circonstances personelles, sur lesquelles je répondis aussi bien que je le pus; et s'exprima sur l'Empereur et l'Impératrice absolument comme elle aurait pu désirer que, dans un cas analogue, on l'eut fait sur le Roi et sur elle-même. Une circonstance qui me frappa, et qui ne fut certainement pas l'effet du hasard, c'est qu'au milieu des détails où elle était entrée sur cette campagne, elle ne nomma pas une fois le Général Mack. Je crois qu'elle voulait éviter exprès tout ce qui aurait pu amener un parallèle en bien ou en mal, tout ce qui aurait pu m'engager à parler du Général en Chef de l'armée prussienne. Aussi, tout en faisant mention de plusieurs généraux de cette armée, du Prince de Hohenloe, du Prince Louis, Schmettau, de Rüchel, de Blücher, de Tauentzien, je remarquai que pas une fois prononça le nom du Duc de Brunswick.

Elle me demanda ensuite si j'avais lu un article du Publiciste, où elle se trouvait indignement mal-traitée: je ne l'avais pas encore vu. Elle en cita quelques phrases, puis elle dit: "Dieu sait que je n'ai jamais été consultée sur les affaires "publiques, et que je n'ai jamais ambitionné de l'être. Si je

"l'avais été, je l'avoue, j'aurais voté pour la guerre: je crois "qu'elle était indispensable. Notre position était devenue "si équivoque qu'il fallait en sortir à tout prix. Il fallait "mettre un terme aux reproches et aux soupçons qui pésaient "sur nous; c'est bien moins par calcul, que par sentiment "d'honneur, et par devoir, qu'il fallait prendre ce parti."

Elle parla ensuite de la partialité qu'on lui reprochait pour les Russes. Elle dit que c'était bien la plus injuste et la plus absurde des accusations; qu'elle avait rendu justice, comme elle ne cesserait jamais de faire, à l'ardeur, au dévouement, aux vertus de l'Empereur Alexandre; mais que, loin de regarder la Russie comme l'instrument principal de la délivrance de l'Europe, opprimée par un conquérant dont la France était le point de départ, elle n'avait jamais considéré ses efforts, que comme un dernier point d'appui pour les autres; intimement persuadée que le grand moyen de salut se trouvait dans l'union la plus étroite de tout ce qui porte le nom Allemand.

On s'était beaucoup entretenu ces jours derniers de la répugnance que témoignait la Reine à quitter le quartiergénéral. Les voix étaient partagées à ce sujet. Le plus grand nombre était prononcé contre toute prolongation de son sejour. Des hommes, mêmes très estimables, le désapprouvaient; l'autres le blamaient sans aucun ménagement, Lombard, par exemple, m'en avait parlé la veille, dans des termes extrêmement durs. Quelques-uns toutefois pensaient différemment. Le Général Kalkreuth entr'autres m'avait dit à Auerstedt, "Protestez, chaque fois que vous " en trouverez l'occasion, contre le projet de renvoyer la Reine; " je sais ce que je dis, sa présence est absolument nécessaire." Ce n'était pas à moi à décider entre ces avis opposés. seule chose que je puis, et que je dois dire, c'est que la conduite de la Reine a été, pendant tout ce sejour, à l'abri de la plus légère critique, marquéc invariablement au coin de ce que la décence la plus récherchéc, la dignité, la délicatesse, la modestie, la prudence pouvaient préscrire à une princesse de son rang, dans la situation peu commune, où elle se trouvait. Je crois même que, tout bien examiné, et en mettant à part le danger qu'elle pouvait courir, mais qui était nul à ses yeux, j'aurais voté aussi pour qu'elle restât. Rien ne pouvait la remplacer auprès du Roi; et comme elle ne paraissait presque point en public, et n'avait aucune prétention à paraître, l'avantage de sa présence l'emportait sur les inconvéniens. Ayant tant entendu discuter cette matière, j'étais curieux de m'en instruire un peu à la source; j'ai saisi un moment pour dire à la Reine, "'Je sais qu'on est fort occupé à Dresde "de l'espoir de posséder Votre Majesté pour quelques jours." Voici ce qu'elle m'a répondu. "Je vous avoue que dans "d'autres circonstances un séjour à Dresde m'aurait fait "grand plaisir. À présent je n'en jouirais pas, ma téte est "trop remplie de choses sérieuses. Je ne sais pas au reste " ce que je deviendrai. En ceci, comme en tout, je me soumets "aux ordres du Roi. Je crains de retourner à Berlin. Je "erains les bruits alarmants auxquels on est toujours en prise "à une grande distance du théâtre des évènements. Vous "savez combien la malveillance est active." (Elle avait dit la veille à M. de Goetzen: eomment pourriez-vous me réleguer à Berlin? Vous voulez donc que j'apprenne les nouvelles de la guerre par M. de Bray.) "Je le dis franche-"ment, autant que eela dépendra de moi je resterai; le Roi "m'a heureusement permit de l'accompagner encore demain, "je ne partirai que lorsqu'il le voudra."

Elle ne m'avait absolument rien dit pour mon propre compte, ni du commencement, ni dans tout le cours de l'audience; ce que j'ai trouvé d'un tact, et d'une dignité parfaite. Ce n'est qu'en me congédiant, qu'elle m'a honoré d'une seule petite phrase, mais d'un genre si exquis que je ne l'oublierai jamais: Madame la Duchesse de Hildburghausen,

sœur de la Reine, a assisté à toute l'audience.

En sortant du palais j'ai reneontré une quantité de troupes; e'était une partie des régimens revenant de Gotha et Eisenach. Le Roi était à cheval; Goetzen, derrière lui, s'est approché de moi, et m'a dit: "excellente nouvelle! Les Français "ont attaqué Tauentzien, et il les a bravement repoussés." Un autre officier que j'ai rencontré, m'a dit qu'un eourier était arrivé de Vienne, avec la nouvelle que l'Empereur avait déclaré sa neutralité: je me suis rendu chez le Comte de Haugwiz pour vérifier tous ees réeits. Je l'ai trouvé avec le Marquis de Lucchesini. On m'a montré d'abord le rapport du Général Tauentzien. Il y était dit que les Français s'étaient avançés sur lui le 7, et le 8, et avaient fort mine de l'attaquer; mais que le trouvant prêt à les recevoir, ils avaient abandonné leur projet, après avoir perdu quelques hommes: qu'après eela, il avait fait sa retraite de Hofa à Schleitz dans le meilleur ordre possible, telle qu'elle lui avait été préserite. La seule ehose qu'il ajoutait à ce rapport était l'observation, un peu prématurée sans doute, "Que "l'ennemi avait montré, dans cette tentative, une certaine "timidité qu'on ne lui connaissait pas habituellement." Quoique très content du Général Tauentzien, très content surtout de ee que je eroyais sa jonetion avec le corps du Prince de Hohenloe, operée sans perte et aceident, (ear alors nous ne pouvions pas savoir ee qui se passait en ce moment même à Sehleitz) je ne pouvais eependant point aecorder à cet évènement le titre d'une affaire, bien moins encore celui d'un suecès; attendu qu'il n'y avait eu aucun engagement quelconque. Je fus done extrêmement étonné lorsque j'appris que le Comte de Haugwiz avait l'intention d'en faire le sujet d'un bulletin imprimé, qui serait envoyé par de couriers à Berlin, Dresde, Vienne, je erois même à St. Petersbourg et à Londres. Je l'entendis dire sur cela les ehoses les plus extraordinaires, pour ne pas dire les plus extravagantes. Je ne dissimulai point mon opinion; d'autant

moins que je m'apperçus bientôt que le Marquis le partageait absolument. Nous réunimes nos efforts pour combattre l'idée de ce bulletin, qui ne pouvant offrir aucun détail, par la bonne raison qu'il n'y en avait aucun dans le rapport, aurait commencé l'histoire de cette guerre par celle de la retraite possible d'un corps avancé. Le Comte de Haugwiz insista toujours. Dans les intervalles de cette discussion, réparut d'un moment à l'autre l'étrange et ridicule affaire de M. la Forét. Il n'était pas parti. On avait encore tenu un conseil; rien n'était décidé. Cet objet, je le vis bien, l'emportait pour le coup sur tous les autres. En revenant à celui du bulletin, il fut enfin résolu, après de longs débats, qu'il n'y en aurait point d'imprimé ; mais qu'un courier serait expédié à Dresde, avec la nouvelle de l'évènement. Le Comte de Haugwiz alla s'enfermer pour trois heures, cherchant une rédaction qui ne donnât ni trop ni trop peu d'espérance à l'Electeur de Saxe.

J'avoue que je n'avais jamais été plus frappé de la modicité de moyens du Comte de Haugwiz, et du peu de proportion entre sa tâche et sa tête. Le Marquis de Lucchesini me jettait de tems en tems des regards qui me prouvaient qu'il lisait dans mon âme. Enfin les incidens de cette matinée, joints à une quantité d'autres données que j'avais recueillis les jours précédens, me confirmaient définitivement dans l'opinion que ce Ministre, que presque tous ses contemporains regardaient comme un artiste consommé en fait de ruses, et de profondeur politique, n'était au fond qu'un homme faible et borné, dont les fautes nombreuses et cruelles résultaient bien moins d'une volonté déterminée au mal,

que d'une incapacité perpétuelle de mieux faire.

Il fut aussi question du dernier courier de Vienne. On m'assura qu'aucune déclaration n'avait été faite sur la neutralité; qu'au contraire, il avait été dit au Comte Finkenstein que l'Empereur ne s'engagerait à rien; qu'il n'y aurait qu'une neutralité de fait, et que cette mesure n'empêcherait pas même qu'on n'envoyât un officier au quartier-général prussien. Tout cela devait avoir été dit avant le retour de l'Empereur à Vienne. On ajouta que le Roi en avait été extrêmement satisfait. On ne me montra cependant pas la dépêche, comme on l'avait fait quelques jours auparavant, à l'arrivée du dernier courier; et cette circonstance me fit soupçonner qu'il y avait des choses dont on n'était pas absolument content, et qu'on aimait micux me cacher. Ce qui vient à l'appui de ce soupçon c'étaient les nouvelles instances qu'on me fit, dans ce même moment, pour m'engager à écrire à Vienne; instances dans lesquelles M. de Lucchesini, cette fois-ci, se joignit à M. de Haugwiz. Mon parti était pris à cet égard ; mais je sentais bien que les objections légères par lesquelles j'avais combattu la première proposition de ce genre, ne me tireraient pas d'affaire contre la seconde, Je me décidai donc à alléguer, avec les modifications que la politesse pouvait exiger, le véritable motif de mon refus. Je déclarai franchement, que je ne voulais pas écrire, parce qu'une lettre, datée d'Erfurth, n'aurait pas même cet air de liberté et de véracité qu'il lui faudrait pour produire son effet. M. de Lucchesini m'entendit à merveille, et ne me pressa plus après cette déclaration; ce qui probablement détermina le Comte de Haugwiz à abandonner aussi ses instances.

Après avoir diné chez le Comte de Haugwiz, je fus non seulement témoin, mais acteur moi-même dans une autre scène bien propre à caractériser les personnes qui dirigeaient la pièce. J'avais rédigé une proclamation aux troupes, d'après le vœu manifesté la veille. Le Roi en avait été content, mais ne l'avait pas trouvée assez populaire. J'ai représenté au Comte de Haugwiz que ce que le Roi demandait était une chose inexécutable; qu'une pièce calculée en même tems sur les premières classes de l'armée, et sur la conception du simple soldat était un problême contradictoire; que pour se mettre à la portée de celui-ci, il vaudrait mieux faire une addresse à part, et laisser l'autre comme elle était. Cet avis ne fit pas fortune : de longues et fatigantes discussions s'établirent sur chaque phrase de la proclamation. Le Comte de Haugwiz me dit que le Roi attachait un si grand intérèt à cette pièce, qu'il s'en était occupé, toute la matinée. Il me sollicita constamment d'essayer de la rendre un peu plus vulgaire. J'y ai travaillé pendant une heure. J'y ai fait tous les changemens qui m'ont semblé conduire au but, quoique bien persuadé que je n'y parviendrais jamais; puisque la nature de la chose s'y opposait : car il y avait plusieurs grands passages de ma première rédaction, dont le Roi n'avait pas voulu que l'on retranchât un mot. Enfin le Comte de Haugwiz la lui a présentée de nouveau. Il m'a fait appeller à 6 heures du soir, et me l'a rendue toute couverte de notes, de corrections, et d'additions, que le Roi avait écrites lui-même, la plupart crayon, quelques-unes indéchiffrables. Il m'a comblé d'excuses sur ce qu'on me tracassait tant pour cette pièce, ayant l'air de croire que je pourrais en être faché malgré toutes les protestations, melées de quelques plaisantéries, par lesquelles je me suis défendu contre ce soupçon. cela il m'a déclaré que la pièce ne pouvait absolument pas rester dans l'état où le Roi l'avait mise. Il y avait en effet des incorrections de style, et une confusion d'ancien et de nouveau, à laquelle il était difficile de remédier. Le Comte de Haugwiz prétendait donc que je procédasse à une nouvelle rédaction, dans laquelle je conserverais des phrases du Roi qui me paraitrait bon et admissible. Après quelques momens de réflexion j'ai cru devoir me refuser à cette proposition. Je lui aì dit que je n'étais point-du-tout retenu parcequ'il pouvait y avoir de pénible dans ce nouveau travail; mais qu'il me paraissait tout-à-fait contraire au respect que je devais au Roi, de traiter de la manière indiquée, une pièce

à laquelle il avait travaille de main propre; qu'une opération pareille lui déplarait peut-être beaucoup; et que je voyais Son Excellence trop embarrassée elle-même, pour croire qu'elle put répondre de l'issue. Il était en effet d'un embarras difficile à peindre, et qui m'aurait fait rire si le moment avait été moins sérieux. Il me demanda donc avec instances de lui proposcr un autre expédient ; car telle qu'elle est, répéta-t-il toujours, elle ne peut pas être imprimée et publiée. Je lui proposai à la fin de dire au Roi, que nous n'avions pas pu déchiffrer ses notes (ce qui était vrai en grande partie) et qu'il daignàt faire transcire la pièce par quelqu'un habitué à lire son écriture. Je nommai le Comte Goetzen, sachant que s'il en était une fois chargé, l'affaire se trouverait en bonnes mains, et serait terminée sans de nouveaux incidents, d'autant plus que j'étais sûr que le Roi aimerait mieux s'addresser à lui qu'à tout autre. Cette proposition soulagea singulièrement le Comte de Haugwiz. Le Roi l'adopta. Goetzen fit de son mieux pour amalgamer les notes du Roi avec mon texte, et il en résulta finalement un ouvrage de marquéterie qui fut imprimé le lendemain en grande hâte, et qui, malgré ses bigarrures, et ses imperfections, aurait pu produire quelque effet, si la marche rapide des évèncmens ne lui avait pas enlevé jusqu'au tems qu'il eut fallu pour le répandre, et pour le lire.

À huit heures du soir j'ai vu le Général Kalkreuth, arrivé à Erfurth dans la journée. Il m'a demandé comment j'avais trouvé l'état de choses. Je lui ai dit qu'il m'offrait une quantité de raisons pour nourrir les plus sérieuses inquiétudes ; et que rien que la confiance, toujours égale, manifesté par un grand nombre d'officiers, en dépit de tous les symptomes alarmans, ne leur tenait encore une espèce de balance. Il ne s'est rétracté sur aucune de scs tristes prédictions. Il a dit, que le terme fatal avançait à grands pas, et que comme rien d'essentiel n'était changé, à moins qu'il ne se fit un miracle en leur faveur, le résultat serait tel qu'il l'avait annoncé.

J'ai passé le reste de la soirée chez le Marquis de Lucchesini. Je lui ai parlé ouvertement sur plusieurs circonstances inquiétantes; sur la fluctuation et le décousure que je remarquais dans les mesures militaires; sur le caractère de plusieurs personnages dirigeans, tel que, peu-à-peu, il se développait à mes yeux. La Forêt était toujours à Erfurth; ce n'est que ce soir, qu'après tant de discussions, on s'était déterminé à envoyer le lendemain à Langensalza. Je n'ai pas pu m'empêcher de dire au Marquis que cette affaire m'avait beaucoup affecté; non pas par elle-même, puisque, après tout, le séjour de M. la Forêt au quartier-général était tout au plus une chose indécente, mais point une chose dangéreuse; mais à cause de l'irrésolution, de la faiblesse, et pour tout dire la petitesse que le Duc de Brunswick, et surtout M. de Haugwiz avaient montrée dans un cas aussi simple. Il en est tombé d'accord à l'instant; il en a sincèrement gemi

lui-même. C'est à cette occasion qu'il m'a dit, que sans s'aveugler sur son propre mérite, il regardait comme un véritable bonheur que le Roi l'eut retenu auprès de lui; qu'il s'était fait la loi de ne se mêler absolument que des objets sur lesquels on le consultait; et que pour ne pas donner de l'ombrage, ou faire de la peine au Comte de Haugwiz, il n'avait pas écrit une ligne depuis qu'il était au quartier-général; mais, qu'en effet, il ne savait pas trop ce que seraient devenues les affaires, s'il n'avait pas sans cesse assisté, poussé, reveillé, et orienté le Comte de Haugwiz; et que personne n'était moins propre à travailler dans un moment de crise et de difficulté. Après une déclaration pareille, j'ai cru pouvoir me livrer aussi à quelques réflexions de ma part. Je lui ai dit, que tout cela faisait trembler; que je ne concevais pas ce que deviendrait le Roi entre un général en chef tel que le Duc, dans mon opinion, quoique lui, M. de Lucchesini, eût l'air de la combattre, et un ministre tel qu'il était lui-même obligé de peindre M. de Haugwiz; que si je ne le voyais pas, lui (et je parlais ici avec pleine conviction) soutenir le mouvement, et monter les ressorts, je craindrais, tout de bon, que la machine ne s'arrétât entièrement. Je lui ai demandé encore si, avec un caractère tel que nous le connaissions au Comte de Haugwiz, il n'y avait pas tout à redouter pour la stabilité, les bases de l'entreprise; et si, d'un jour à l'autre, on ne devait pas s'attendre à un nouveau changement de systême, surtout en cas de quelque revers. Il me répondit : "Oh pour cela, non. Il "ne peut plus retourner sur ses pas ; le mouvement général "l'entraine; et d'ailleurs je vous réponds que personne n'est "aujourd'hui plus acharné contre Napoléon que le Comte "de Haugwiz et Lombard. L'un et l'autre, comme je vous "l'ai dit, ont cru l'avoir dans leurs poches; ils ont été trompés "et humiliés; ils ne le pardonneront jamais."

Vendredi, 10 Octobre.—Le quartier-général devait transporter à Blankenhayn; les régimens de la seconde ligne du centre devaient défiler devant le Roi, avant qu'il s'y rendît. Le Roi est parti à cheval à 9 heures du matin; immédiatement la Reine la suivit avec deux voitures, auxquelles elle avait reduit toute sa suite. (Il n'y avait plus que Madame de Voss, Mlle. de Tauentzien, M. de Busch, et deux femmes de chambres.) Ils se sont arrêtés plus de deux heures hors de la porte d'Erfurth, pour voir passer les régimens. C'étaient deux bataillons de gardes à pied; le bataillon de la vicille garde, le régiment du Roi (infanterie); celui du Duc de Brunswick, celui des gardes du corps, celui des gens d'armes, celui des dragons de la Reine, et un autre régiment de cavalerie. J'avoue que voyant ces troupes aussi belles, aussi fraiches que si elles sortaient pour la première fois de leurs quartiers, les officiers remplis d'enthousiasme, les hommes d'une tenue superbe, les chevaux de la plus grande beauté, malgré tout que je savais pour trembler, je me suis abandonné un moment au charme trompeur de l'espérance; mais ce fut aussi la dernière fois que ce sentiment entra dans mon coeur,

La colonne diplomatique ne devait partir d'Erfurth que le lendemain. La Comte de Haugwiz nous dit que le calme ayant succedé aux tempêtes, nous jouirions ce jour de notre liberté. Il me confia en particulier que rien ne le soulageait tant que de se voir delivré de ces éternels conseils de guerre, qui lui mangaient tout son tems. Il est vrai que c'était une chose bien bizarre que de voir M. de Haugwiz et M. de Lucchesini occupés pendant la plus grande partie de la journée, à assister à des délibérations militaires, où, surtout le premier de ces ministres, qui en savait à peine assez pour s'orienter sur une carte de postes, devait être d'une ressource merveilleuse. Ce qu'on appelait à Erfurth un conseil de guerre était composé du Roi, du Duc de Brunswick, du Maréchal de Möllendorff, du Colonel Kleist, aide-de-camp général du Roi, de MM. de Haugwiz, et de Lucchesini. Jamais d'autres généraux n'y furent admis; et au lieu de consulter les talens qui n'étaient pas rares dans cette armée, et l'expérience militaire qui, quoique plus clair-semée, n'y manquait cependant pas absolument, on fatigua en pure perte des hommes dont les heures précieuses appartenaient à de tout autres travaux, et on les détournait absolument de ceux-ci, au grand détriment des plus importantes affaires.

Nous avons diné chez le Comte de Haugwiz. Il était de la meilleurc humeur du monde; M. la Forêt venait d'être expédié; l'affaire de la proclamation était terminée; la manifeste s'imprimait à Weimar, sous la direction de M. de Schladen; d'un moment à l'autre, on attendait l'arrivée de Lord Morpeth que l'on croyait parti de Hambourg le 2, ou le 3; et d'un général Russe qu'une lettre de Berlin avait dit en route. Quant aux affaires militaires, la retraite du Général Tauenzien sur Schleitz paraissait au Comte de Haugwiz le présage du plus grand succès. Tout enfin semblait lui sourire; et qui aurait assisté à ce diner ne se serait jamais imaginé que ce jour, que cette heure-là même, commençait la défaite de l'armée, et la chute de la monarchie prussienne.

Aprés diner j'ai été dire adieu à Lombard, qui devait partir pour Berlin le lendemain. La manière dont le Roi s'était séparé de lui annonçait toute une chose, plûtôt qu'une disgrace; et les bruits qu'on a fait courir lâ-dessus étaient dénués de toute espèce de fondement. Je l'ai trouvé extrèmemênt ému. Il m'a remercié de la manière la plus affectueuse, du bien qu'il prétendait être resulté de mon sejour. Il m'a dit que le Roi y était également sensible, et que dans des tems plus tranquiles, il s'en souviendrait avec reconnaissance. Il a même ajouté que si, sous quelque rapport que ce fût, le Roi pouvait m'être utile, il répondrait d'avance de tout ce que je pouvais lui demander. Je lui ai dit, que la bonne opinion de Sa Majesté était le seul objet de mes voeux; que je ne demandais au Roi que des succès et la délivrance de l'Allemagne.

Mon but étant de chercher des éclaircissemens partout où il y avait une chance d'en trouver, je n'ai pas répoussé l'occasion d'entamer ce soir une conversation avec M. de Böhm, attaché depuis dix ans à la légation prussienne à Paris; homme de peu de moyens, exclusivement occupé de ses affaires particulières; mais que sa position n'en avait pas moins mis dans le cas d'observer ce qui se passait autour de lui. Dans une époque comme celle où je me suis trouvé à Erfurth, tous les coeurs s'ouvrent, tous les secrets percent; chacun a besoin de prouver aux autres que lui aussi a prévu et calculé les évènemens.

Je pouvais tirer de celui-ci quelques renseignemens sur les dernières démarches de M. de Lucchesini à Paris. Malgré la sincerité avec laquelle il m'avait parlé lui-même sur la plupart des choses passées, la bienveillance personelle avec laquelle il m'avait traité à Erfurth, l'agrément de sa conversation, l'amabilité toujours égale de son commerce, et tant de qualités attrayantes par lesquelles il savait captiver tout le monde, je n'avais jamais pu oublier le rôle qu'il joua dans les longs égaremens de la Prusse; et j'étais fort intéressé à savoir comment il avait pu se résoudre à changer de conduite aussi subitement, et à travailler lui-même, pour amener la rupture avec la France. J'ai donc demandé à Böhm, si avec l'attachement connu que le Marquis avait toujours eu pour Paris, la nécessité de faire des rapports qui préparaient la perte de sa place n'avait pas paru l'affliger beaucoup. dit, que si le Marquis n'avait pas été entièrement convaincu de ce que, de manière ou d'autre, l'amitié entre la Prusse et la France touchait à sa dernière heure ; et qu'en dissimulant la vérité, il se rendait responsable en pure perte, il ne se serait pas déterminé à parler comme il avait fait dans ses rapports. Cette réponse était suffisament claire; mais l'entretien, une fois en train, il y donna encore beaucoup de developpement. Il me dit, qu'il n'avait jamais eu à se plaindre de M. de Lucchesini, et qu'il ne lui voulait aucun mal ; mais qu'il toujours complétement désapprouvé sa conduite politique, puisque les autres avaient au moins eu pour excuse ou de n'être pas assez instruits pour juger le mal dans toute son étendue, ou d'avoir été entrainé par les caresses et protestations d'amitié du Gouvernement français; tandis que le Marquis avait trop connu le fond de la chose pour s'y méprendre, et avait été trop maltraité par Buonaparte pour ne pas le détester cordialement : qu'ainsi le seul motif qui ait pu l'engager à ne pas dire les choses comme il les voyait, se trouvait dans son malheureux attachement à la place qu'il occupait à Paris : que cet attachement s'expliquait en partie par l'empire illimité que Madame de Lucchesini exerçait sur lui: que celle-ci, qui n'aurait pas troqué Paris contre le Paradis, s'évanouissant à l'idée seule de la quitter, tourmentait sans cesse son mari pour qu'il employât tous les moyens qui pouvaient prolonger son séjour. De là, selon M. de Böhm, son long silence, ses tergiversations continuelles, et ses efforts toujours renouvellés pour prévenir une rupture avec la France, malgré tout ce qui en annonçait la nécessité. Cette explication ne suffisait, certainement pas, pour rendre comte de tout ce qu'elle prétendait embrasser; mais je n'en crois pas moins qu'elle contenait un grand fond de verité.

Ce soir enfin j'ai eu la dernière conversation suivie avec M. de Lucchesini lui-même. Elle est devenue particulièrement intéressante; aussi s'est-elle prolongée jusqu'à deux heures

du matin.

En observant que depuis plusieurs semaines on était sans nouvelles de St. Pétersbourg, il a vivement déploré la lenteur et l'indécision par laquelle on s'était privé d'une assistance plus prompte de la Russie. Il m'a dit, et M. de Haugwiz m'avait déjà confié la même chose, en rejettant tout le tort sur le Roi, qu'au lieu d'expédier M. de Krusemarck, comme on aurait pu et du le faire, avant la fin du mois d'Aout, on s'était malheureusement avisé de vouloir attendre le première rapport de Knobelsdorff; et que ce rapport n'étant arrivé que le 17 Septembre, ce ne fut que le 18 que M. de Krusemarck partit de Berlin. Il ne pouvait donc être arrivé St. Petersbourg que le 30: par conséquent, l'ordre de se mettre en marche n'ayant pas pu parvenir aux troupes Russes avant le 6 ou 7 Octobre, il était impossible qu'elles se trouvassent sur le théâtre de la guerre avant la mi-Novembre. Il a articulé tout ce calcul d'un ton d'inquiétude qui ne lui arrivait pas souvent de prendre. Il m'avait dit plus d'une fois: 'Nous pouvons seuls commencer la guerre, mais nous ne "pouvons pas la continuer, et bien moins encore la finir "seuls." Cette fois-ci, il avait l'air de craindre que même la première partie de la tâche ne serait pas sans difficulté.

C'était là le moment que je crus devoir saisir pour discuter avec lui la grande et épineuse question qui depuis longtems me pesait sur le coeur ; et j'ai senti que pour ne pas manquer mon but, il fallait l'aborder sans détour; je lui ai dit donc brusquement, que tout bien considéré, j'étais encore à comprendre pourquoi ils avaient choisi le moment actuel pour commencer la guerre. Il m'a paru vivement surpris, ct il m'a dit: "Comment donc, je ne m'attendais pas à cela. Après "tout ce que vous savez maintenant, vous m'addressez encore "une question pareille?" J'ai répondu que j'avais précisement voulu attendre le moment où je serais bien informé de tout, pour lui présenter mes doutes sur un objet sur lequel lui seul était en état de me donner les derniers éclaircissemens. Je me suis amplement expliqué. Je lui ai dit en substance, "que "mon principe fondamental avait été, de tout tems, que le "seul et unique moyen pour rétablir l'équilibre contre la "France se trouvait dans un réunion sagement concertée "de tout ce qui restait de forces en Europe; que pour réaliser "un état de choses conforme à ce principe, la réunion des "deux grandes puissances de l'Allemagne m'avait constam-"ment paru la première et la plus essentielle des conditions: "que l'année dernière j'avais pleinement désesperée du "succès, aussitôt que je m'étais apperçu qu'on le croyait "possible sans le concours assuré de la Prusse; qu'à moins "d'une inconséquence palpable, je ne pouvais pas en juger "autrement, lorsque je voyais se préparer la même entreprise "sans que l'on pût compter sur l'Autriche; que dans l'un "comme dans l'autre cas, les secours de la Russie, quelques "grands et respectables qu'ils pussent être, ne balançaient "pas dans mon esprit, l'absence de la donnée fondamental, convaincu, comme je l'avais toujours été, que lorsqu'il "s'agissait d'une guerre contre Buonaparte, la Russie, par la "nature des choses, ne pouvait être ni l'équivalent de la "Prusse pour l'Autriche, ni l'équivalent de l'Autriche pour "la Prusse: que plusieurs conjonctures connues rendaient 'même la position de la Prusse particulièrement problematique "et difficile; que lorsqu'elle avait pris sa résolution, elle "ne savait pas même avec certitude (il en était souvent "convenu, quoique ajoutant toujours que toutes les proba-"bilités étaient contre) si l'Empereur de Russie ratifierait " ou non le traité du 19 Juillet : que brouillé avec l'Angleterre, "elle savait bien moins encore, savait à peine aujourd'hui, " si celle-ci lui accorderait des subsides, et à quelles conditions "elle les accorderait; que pour commencer sous des auspices "aussi précaires, dans une époque où les armées françaises "se trouvaient au coeur de l'Allemagne, dans une saison "si fort avancée, sans allié proprement dit, sans ressource "certaine en cas de revers, une guerre oû la Prusse jouait "évidemment de son existence, il aurait fallu, selon moi, des " motifs, non-seulement de la première force, mais encore " de la première urgence." Et vous ne les admettez donc pas? m'interrompit-il; "Franchement non; j'admets que vos motifs sont justes et puissants; je serais bien le dernier "à le nier; mais je ne puis pas les trouver urgens, pas tels "qu'ils devraient être à mes yeux pour justifier dans les "circonstances données une explosion instante et subite." Et tout ce qu'on vous a fourni de preuves de la malveillance, et de la perfidie de Napoléon contre nous, et contre tout le

"Je n'en avais pas besoin pour savoir qu'il meditait votre déstruction; aurais-je pu en douter un instant? Mais tout ce qui m'a été communiqué jusqu 'ici, et je présume que je n'ai plus rien à apprendre, ne m'explique pas, je persiste à le dire, la nécessité d'une guerre immédiate. Il ne vous aurait pas attaqué avant l'hyver; il ne vous auroit pas même enlevé sans façon votre pays d'Hanovre; car la paix avec l'Angleterre n'était pas signée, et il aurait fallu du tems pour l'exécuter: toutes les autres demandes ou chicanes auraient admis des négotiations. Quant aux menaces, aux insultes, aux affronts, dont vous auriez été sans doute assaillis au premier signal de résistance, je ne dis pas, Dieu m'en préserve, que vous auriez du y rester indifférens; mais il m'est permis de croire que, les ayant

"dévorés en secret pendant un si grand nombre d'années, "vous auriez pu les ignorer pour quelques mois. Si j'avais "eu à donner un avis, voici ce que j'aurais proposé: tout "dissimuler pour le moment; affecter la plus grande soumission; "employer l'hyver à familiariser les autres puissances avec "la révolution opérée dans votre systême politique; s'arranger "par une voie détournée avec l'Angleterre; s'assurer "complétement de la Russie; profiter de ses bonnes dispositions "pour insp-rer de la confiance à l'Autriche, et délibérer encore "sur l'époque ct les moyens, pour réaliser subitement quelque

"grande et puissante mesure."

J'avais tant médité sur ce sujet, jour et nuit, que mon raisonnement, je puis le dire, coulait de source. Le Marquis n'y était point préparé. Le silence que j'avais gardé jusqu'ici sur cette question, aussi majeure que critique, lui avait fait croire que je donnais aveuglement dans leur plans; et mon horreur, très fortement prononcé, pour l'exécrable tyrannie qui nous écrase, mon désir ardent et connu de voir arriver le moment de la délivrance, l'avaient confirmé dans cette opinion. Son état pendant que je parlais, l'inquiétude exprimée sur sa figure, une contenance ordinairement à tout épreuve mais cette fois-ci visiblement embarrassée; tout me prouva, d'une manière indubitable, qu'au fond de son ame il était tout à fait d'accord avec moi. Voici, cependant, la tournurc qu'il prit pour me répondre. Il me dit que je ne pouvais pas ignorer que, soit qu'elle l'ait mérité ou non, la Prusse avait perdu depuis quelque tems la confiance de l'Europe entière; qu'il posait en fait que cette confiance préliminaire, indispensable de tout concert quelconque, ne pouvait être reconquise qu'à coups de canon: que si, sans entrer en guerre, elle avait fait des propositions à ses voisins, personne ne l'aurait seulement écoutée; que telle etait sa position fâcheuse qu'elle se voyait aujourd'hui obligé commencer par là, cù on aurait mieux aimé finir; que cette réunion même de forces et de volontés, qu'il regardait avec moi comme le dernier moyen de salut, ne pouvait plus s'établir que sur le base du premier succès ; que si le Roi n'avait pas pris ce parti, le seul que lui serait resté à prendre était de renvoyer tous ses ministres : que tout intérèt personnel à part, il pouvait me certifier, me prouver même au cas de besoin, qu'une mesure pareille aurait été traitée par la France comme la déclaration de guerre la plus caractérisée, ct également rendu tout concert préparatoire impracticable; que d'ailleurs, la confédération du Rhin un fois formée, l'Empereur d'Allemagne une fois detroné, et l'ambition de Buonaparte ne s'endormant pas une minute, il ètait difficile de calculer quel progrès il aurait fait jusqu'au printems.

Je lui ai répliqué que "j'étais loin de contester ce dernicr "argument; qu'il avait peut-être également raison quant "aux effets qu'aurait produits un changement brusque dans "le Ministère; que des inconvéniens graves, je ne me le "dissimulais pas, se rencontraient dans toutes les hypothéses "et pour quelque mesure que l'on se fût décidé: que je "persistais eependant à regarder comme le plus formidable "de tous, eelui d'une guerre solitaire, entamée la veille de "l'hyver, et sans ressources prochaines au eas d'un malheur: "que, du moins, on aurait du tenter toujours la voie des "négotiations, et voir jusqu'où elle aurait conduit : que par "là on se serait menagé eneore l'avantage précieux de débuter "par une proposition de paix générale laquelle, faite aux "noms des quatre grandes puissances, aurait probablement "engagé Buonaparte à réflêehir sur ee qu'il allait entre-"prendre; et, qu'en attendant, l'opinion publique, déjà "eonsidérablement montée, et plus provoquée, plus irritée, "plus décidée chaque jour, aurait secondé les efforts de tant "de Gouvernemens réunis avec une énergie tout-à-fait "inealeulable."

Sur eela, il m'a dit, à la fin, "Eh bien, soyez done persuadé "que si l'affaire avait été mise en déliberation, e'est de cet "avis-là que je me serais rangé. Ce n'est pas moi qui ai "voulu qu'on eommençat la guerre dans ee moment; j'ai "fait mon devoir en écrivant tout ee que je savais; mais la "résolution était prise avant que l'arrivée de mes dépèches "à Berlin me fût eonnue. Le fait est qu'il n'y avait plus à "delibérer. Le publie avait décidé la question; les têtes "ardentes l'avaient emporté. Vous savez ee qui s'était "passé à Berlin; la fermentation était au comble; le cabinet "ne pouvait plus y résister : au fonds il devait en juger comme "le public; mais quelque put être son désir d'opérer avec "plus de maturité, il n'était plus le maitre du moment. Le Roi, "le dernier qui se soit rendu, a été obligé de eéder lui-même "pour mettre fin aux importunités, aux tribulations, aux "instances dont il était sans cesse assailli."

Cet argument n'admettait plus de réponse; ear je ne pouvais pas lui dire que eette fermentation même, dont il me parlait, n'était qu'un des malheureux effêts de la trop longue durée d'un systême essentiellement faux, et justement odieux. D'ailleurs j'avais gagné ma thèse; le Marquis m'avait nettement avoué que si le Cabinet de Berlin eut eu la liberté et la force de se déterminer d'après un ealeul raisonnable, il aurait suivie un autre systême, et eelui même qui me paraissait le

plus sage : cet aveu était tout ee qu'il me fallait.

Mais pour épuiser la question sous tous les rapports, je l'ai abordée eneore sous eelui des avantages partieuliers que la Prusse pouvait se promettre de eette guerre. J'ai dit, "qu'à cet égard-là je la trouvais placée dans une position "extremement bisarre. Ils (les Ministres) ne niaient pas, "et ne pouvaient pas nier, que la eause directe de leur "armement était le projet de Napoléon de leur enlever le "pays d'Hanovre. L'époque où ils s'étaient décidés à cet "armement, le 7 Aout, prouvait, d'une manière évidente, qu'ils

"avaient voulu ou engager l'Empereur de Russie à refuser "sa sanction au traité d'Oubril, ou empêcher que la paix "de l'Angleterre ne se joignit à celle de la Russie, ou, enfin, "se mettre en état de soutenir la possession de ce pays "quand même l'Angleterre et la Russie se seraient accordées "avec la France, pour le leur arracher. Et, cependant, pour "se reconcilier avec l'Angleterre, ils se trouvaient aujourd'hui "obligés de lui offrir la restitution du Hanovre; de l'objet "pour la conservation duquel, ils s'étaient proprement déterminés à prendre les armes." Il a voulu d'abord échapper à une explication positive par un faux fuyant très adroit, en disant que c'était bien moins la crainte de perdre la Hanovre, que la perfidie du Gouvernement français qui, après les avoir forcés à l'occuper, les menaçait de les en dépouiller soit par la force soit par les intrigues, qui les avait conduits à cet armement. Je ne me suis pas contenté de cette subtilité; d'autant moins que l'occasion m'a paru trop favorable pour m'instruire à fond de leurs véritables intentions à cet égard. J'ai dit que "j'admettais sa "distinction; que je voyais effectivement dans les procédés "de Buonaparte vis-à-vis de la Prusse, un trait d'infamie "et de noirceur qui justifierait un demi-siècle de guerre. "Mais que je savais aussi, d'un autre côtê, qu'on n'était "rien moins qu'indifférent à Berlin sur la perspective de "perdre le Hanovre; que des personnes de poids, et des personnes même qui avaient hautement désapprouvé la "manière dont on avait acquis ce pays, m'avaient dit que, "la chose une fois faite, on ne pouvait plus retourner sur ses "pas; et que cette possession était d'une nécessité indispensable pour la Prusse."

(Voilà ce que, par exemple, M. de Stein, opposé autant que possible au principe de la première occupation, m'avait

déclaré sans détour au mois de Juillet à Dresde.)

Il s'est expliqué alors avec plus de franchise. Il m'a dit, "que tout dépendait de la tournure qu'on donnerait aux "négociations avec l'Angleterre; que si cette puissance insistait "sur la restitution, et s'il ne se présentait aucun moyen pour "l'y faire renoncer, plûtôt que de garder le pays d'Hanovre "malgré elle, on le rendrait, sauf à chercher quelque bon équivalent "dans les résultats d'une guerre heureuse; mais que pour peu qu'il serait possible de convaincre l'Angleterre de l'insuffisance des raisons par lesquelles elle pourrait s'opiniatrer sur ce pays, ce serait à elle que l'on proposcrait des équivalens, "jusqu'à concurrence même de la Hollande, si elle voulait "contribuer à la conquérir. Maintenant, a-t-il ajouté, vous "connaissez le dernier de nos secrets."

J'étais en effet suffisamment instruit pour porter un jugement définitive. J'avais su avant mon voyage que la grande majorité des personnes estimables à Berlin avaient désiré et demandé cette guerre, par des motifs dont elles n'auront jamais à rougir; pour mettre un frein au progrès d'une puissance monstreuse; pour briser les chaines de l'Allemagne; pour relever leur propre pays de la dégradation cruelle oû il était tombé aux yeux des contemporains éclairés. Je savais, à présent, que les Ministres du Roi avaient embrassé le même parti; d'abord par la crainte que leur inspiraient les instances toujours renouvellées de leurs adversaires, et la fermentation générale des esprits; ensuite par leur propre conviction de la perfidie du Gouvernement français, et par le chagrin d'en avoir été joué et bafoué; finalement, par la perspective séduisante que leur offrait la chance du succès, soit en légitimant et consolidant une possession qui, jusques-là, n'était qu'usurpée et précaire, soit en leur procurant d'autres acquisitions qui en auraient balancé la perte, sans leur ôter l'espoir et les moyens de s'en emparer de nouveau, un peu plus tard. Je savais que le Roi, toujours fortement prononcé contre la guerre, avait été entrainé malgre lui dans cette singulière coalition de tous les partis; qu'il avait pris

sa résolution bien moins par calcul que par désespoir.

Mais je voyais aussi, d'un autre côté, qu'aucun des individus, ou des partis qui avaient co-opéré à ce projet n'en avait dûment mesuré la profondeur; qu'aucun n'avait mûrement réfléchi ni sur le choix du moment pour le réaliser, ni sur les moyens convenables pour en assurer le succès, ni sur le parti à prendre si l'issue ne répondait pas à leur attente; que le tout était une entreprise précipitée, que l'excès des malheurs communs pouvait excuser, que les intentions de ses premiers auteurs pouvaient ennoblir, mais que la sagesse et la bonne politique désavouaient complétement: une entreprise l'exécution la plus hardie, et des mesures d'une conception extraordinaire auraient peut-être conduits à un résultat heureux, en dépit de son imperfection fondamentale; mais qui, dès que l'on se meprenait sur son caractère, l'assimilait à des guerres d'autrefois, la confiait à des hommes de routine, l'enfermait dans la sphère étroite de quelques combinaisons vulgaires et mesquines, n'offrait plus que des dangers sans équivalent, et des desastres sans remède.

Je suis revenu chez moi à deux heures du matin. Mon esprit, et mes sens étaient trop agités pour que le sommeil ait pu trouver accès ; je me suis donc mis d'abord à rédiger la minute de cette dernière et mémorable conversation ; mais non content de cela, et trop plein encore de ces grands objets, j'ai rassemblé et consigné dans un mémoire toutes mes idées sur l'origine de cette guerre. Ce mémoire me servira un jour pour répondre à la sottise et à la calomnie qui ne manqueront pas de m'accuser d'y avoir contribué par mes

conseils.

Samedi, 11 Octobre.—à 8 heures du matin nous sommes tous partis d'Erfurth; le Comte de Haugwiz, le Marquis de Lucchesini et son fils, MM. de Gortz, et de Waitz, MM. Pierre Lombard et le Coq. Lombard l'ainé etait parti une heure avant nous, pour se rendre en droiture à Berlin. Nous autres

devions rester à Weimar. Le Comte de Haugwiz avait choisi ce sejour, puisque plus éloigné du théâtre de la guerre. Il se trouvait, cependant, ou du moins aurait du se trouver, hors de la ligne des opérations, l'armée se portant sur la Sâle, et le Roi ayant pris la route de Blankenhayn. Il m'avait dit la veille, lorsque je parlais de mon retour à Dresde: "Restez avec nous encore quelques jours; nous serons à Weimar en même tems tranquiles et instruits: nous touchons, comme vous voyez, aux grands évènemens."

Avant de monter en voiture, le Comte de Haugwiz avait reçu un premier avis d'un combat malheureux arrivé la veille à l'avant garde du corps de Hohenloe; mais il n'en avait pas vu les détails; et il ne voulait en parler à personne. Comme le chemin près d'Erfurth était très mauvais, nous sommes allés à pied pendant plus d'une heure. Je me suis apperçu de quelque chose de mauvais par le silence profond du Comte de Haugwiz: je lui en ai demandé la raison, il m'a dit qu'il

souffrait des dents.

Nous sommes entrés à Weimar à onze heures, et j'ai été frappé de surprise et d'épouvante par le spectacle qui s'est offert à mes yeux. Une bagarre, comme je ne l'avais pas encorc rencontrée. Les rues gorgées de troupes, de chevaux, de chariots; au milieu de cela des officiers de toute arme, des généraux, des personnes de la suite du Roi, que je n'avais pas attendues ici. Les voitures s'arrêtent. Je vois arriver le Conseiller du Cabinet Lombard qui, pale et défait, me demande si son frère est dans la mienne; puis s'approche et me dit: "Vous ne savez pas ee qui passe; nous avons perdu "une bataille, le Prince Louis est tué." Ce coup subit était hors de mes calculs, et au-delà de mes craintes. J'en ai été comme anéanti. Une catastrophe aussi cruelle aurait suffi, toute seule, pour m'abattre. Ici, elle se présentait encorc entourré de présages les plus funestes, et comme l'affreux avant-coureur de quelque autre désastre mortel. J'avance sans savoir ce que je fais. Je vois M. de Schladen, et le Comte de Gortz, au milieu de la foule. Je me précipite de la voiture; je leur demande des explications; non pas sur le malheur de la veille, dont je me sentais déjà trop instruit, mais sur ce qui se passe autour de moi. On me dit, "le quartier-général est ici. Le Roi et la Reine viennent d'arriver ; la marche "des troupes est suspendue. Le Duc fait former un camp; "tout est dans la plus grande consternation." À ces mots mes forces m'abandonnent. Quelque faibles debris d'espérance qui s'étaient encore cachés dans mon ame, disparaissent comme un rêve trompeur, et l'abîme s'ouvre devant moi. Le tourbillon me porte en avant. J'arrive à cc qu'on appelle l'Esplanade. J'y vois trois ou quatre cens officiers de tout grade, ct de toute couleur. J'y vois aussi des hussards Prussiens et Saxons; plusieurs d'entr'eux grièvement blessés. Je demande des nouvelles à droite et à gauche. J'apprends en même tems les nouvelles facheuses du corps de Tauentzien, attaqué

le 9 près de Schleitz, et repoussé avec une perte considérable. Cependant je suis bien de comprendre ce qu'il y a de commun entre ces tristes affaires, et un changement complet du plan des opérations. Il me parait plûtôt que le mouvement vers la Sâle n'en devient que plus indispensable; qu'il aurait dû être exécuté avec unc célérité et une vigueur redoublées. Je m'apperçois, et pour comble de chagrin, tout le monde est persuadé comme moi, que le Duc de Brunswick, effrayé, déconcerté, bouleversé par une première nouvelle désastreuse, n'a eu dans ce mouvement rétrograde, dans ce camp tombé des nues, d'autre but que de gagner du tems sur lui-même; de revenir de son premier abattement; de consulter, non pas les généraux, car il n'en fit rien, mais ses propres incertitudes et terreurs. Je vois le mécontentement et la méfiance peints sur chaque figure. Une agitation sourde regne partout. Je rencontre le Général Kalkreuth. Il me dit. "Venez chez "moi ce soir : bientôt nous ne compterons plus par jours, mais "pas heures." Je rencontre un moment après le Général Phull, qui d'un ton mêlé de douleur et de rage me dit : "On "perd la tête, cela ira furieusement mal." Entrainé, étourdi, confondu par tout ce que j'entends, au point d'avoir presque oublié pendant une heure cette perte dont je ne me consolerai pas toute ma vie, je vois le Prince Auguste de Prusse, qui m'aborde avec un mouvement inexprimable. Je ne l'avais pas vu depuis Berlin. Il connaissait la liaison entre son illustre frère et moi: dans quel moment nous nous retrouvons, me dit-il! Et les larmes étouffaient sa voix. Mais bientot il se retire, et remontant son ame aux mâles sentiments qui convenaient à la grandeur de la circonstance, il me parla sur le présent, et sur l'avenir, dans des termes qui devaient rendre ce Prince aussi intéressant qu'estimable à mes yeux.

Le Comte de Haugwiz nous a donné à diner, à deux heures, dans une auberge. Le silence, l'embarras, la consternation, la tristesse ont présidé à ce diner. Pour celui qui se rappellait le dernier diner d'Erfurth, le contraste devait être frappant, et la chute lugubre. Ce qu'il y avait de plus désolant était l'ignorance profonde dans laquelle on se trouvait sur les projets, et les mouvemens de l'ennemi. On ne savait pas même quelle direction donner à ses craintes. Chacun était le maitre de composer le tableau de l'avenir avec les couleurs les plus sombres que lui présentait son imagination. Tout le monde paraissait d'accord sur un point; et ce point était précisément une chimère. On croyais les Français en pleine marche sur Tout le reste était couvert d'un nuage. admettait que quelque détachement pourrait se porter contre Gera et Leipsig; mais que l'armée de l'ennemi, toute entière, avançait dans cette même direction, voilà ce qui était aussi inconnu à Weimar, qu'il pouvait l'être alors à Berlin, ou à

Vienne.

Après diner est arrivé le Capitaine de Kleist, premier aide-decamp du malheureux Prince Louis. Il nous a donné les détails du combat de Saalfeld, mais pas ceux de la mort du Prince, dont la mélée l'avait séparé quelque tems avant la catastrophe. La triste fin de ce Prince admirable inspirait en général très peu d'intérêt parmi ceux qui, pour le bien de la chose, auraient dû le regretter le plus. Îl y en eut dont les calculs personnels étouffaient les sentimens : d'autres étaient trop fortement frappés de l'imprudence, et de la témérité de sa conduite, pour s'occuper du juste tribut dû à tant de rares qualités, et à un dévouement aussi héroique. Plusieurs se livrerent même sur son compte aux propos les plus indécens, et les plus atroces. Tous, enfin, étaient tellement pénétrés du danger de leur propre position, qu'ils ne trouvaient pas le tems pour jetter un regard en arrière; de sorte que cet évènement cruel et décisif, car il le fut bien plus qu'on ne l'imaginait dans ce premier moment, passa comme un incident subalterne.

Le Roi qui, après la Reine, en fut peut-être le plus vivement touché, ne voulut voir personne. Depuis qu'on était au quartier-général, le Marquis de Lucchesini était chaque jour à six heures prendre le thé chez la Reine. Ce jour-là, se trouvant chez lui à la même heure, je lui ai demandé s'il ne comptait pas s'y rendre comme à l'ordinaire. Je l'ai même pressé d'y aller, observant que cette résolution du Roi de se séquestrer tout-à-coup de tout le monde, me paraissait de plus mauvaise augure. Il m'a dit que, quoique invité une fois pour toutes, il n'osait pas se présenter ce jour à moins d'être appellé exprès.

En attendant, les plus sinistres symptomes se développaient de toutes parts. Je me suis rendu chez le Général Kalkreuth. En me voyant entrer, il m'a dit; "Eh bien! le terme fatal "qui je vous ai annoncé est là, nous voici au milieu de la "crise sans savoir ce que nous deviendrons dans deux jours." La conversation allait s'entrainer sur ce texte affligéant, lorsque j'ai vu entrer chez lui une espèce de députation d'officiers, toute composée d'hommes connus par leur mérite et leurs talens. L'un d'entr'eux portant la parole a dit, " Nous venons "au nom de tout ce qu'il y a d'estimable dans l'armée, pour "conjurer votre excellence d'avoir pitié de nous et de l'état. "Le Roi a déjà perdu la moitié de sa couronne." Comment Messieurs! Comment! les a interrompu le Général. "Oui "excellence, la moitié de sa couronne. Nous savons bien "ce que nous disons; et il perdra incessamment l'autre moitié, "si le Duc de Brunswick continue à nous commander. Le "mécontentement est au comble: nous ne répondons de "rien, de rien même de ce que peut se passer ici, si on ne "trouve pas le moyen d'éclairer le Roi sur sa position. C'est "votre excellence qui doit s'en charger; c'est elle qui doit "prendre la direction; et nous ne partirons d'ici, quoiqu'il "arrive, sans que nous ayons obtenu ce que nous demandons." J'ai été tellement effrayé de ce discours, et tellement embarrassé d'y être présent, que j'ai tâché de gagner la porte, mais le général m'a retenu en disant à demi voix, il est bon que

vous soyez témoin de ceci. Ils se sont mis alors à exposer tous les motifs qui les avaient conduits à cette démarche. Ils ont parlé du camp de Weimar, et de la manière dont on venait de l'exécuter, avec la plus amère dérision, et le plus profond mépris. Ils ont assuré que, pour combler la confusion, le Duc s'était brouillé, à propos de cette mesure, avec son propre favori le Colonel Scharrenhurst; qu'il lui avait dit les choses les plus dures. Ils ont ajouté, qu'au reste le Duc ne savait absolument plus ni ce qu'il faisait, ni ce qu'il voulait faire, ni où il était, ni où il allait; que les plus étranges propos rétentissaient d'une extrêmité à l'autre de l'armée. Le general leur à répondu avec dignité et sagesse. Il leur a dit que si, ce soir même, le Roi lui offrait le commandement, quelque fâcheux que pût être l'état des choses, il'l'accepterait sans objection; mais qu'aucun homme raisonnable ne pouvait prétendre qu'il se présentât lui-même pour le demander: qu'une démarche pareille, également contraire à ses sentimens, et au respect qu'il devait au Roi, serait un acte de démence dans un moment où ces Messieurs euxmêmes, quoique testement et fort imprudemment, parlaient de la perte de la couronne. Ils ont insisté longtems, et, à la fin, dans des termes si forts que le général n'a plus voulu les entendre, et

les a congediés brusquement.

Cette scène, qui m'avait terriblement affecté, a amené une longue conversation, dans laquelle le Général Kalkreuth ne m'a plus laissé de doute sur l'étendue et l'extrêmité du danger. J'ai appris que non seulement le Duc de Brunswick n'avait aucun plan fixé et raisonnable sur l'ensemble des opérations, mais qu'il en dirigeait encore très mal les détails; qu'il fatiguait les troupes par des dispositions confuses et contradictoires; par de marches, et contremarches inutiles; par une mauvaise répartition des cantonnemens; par des difficultés continuelles sur les subsistances; par une infinité de fausses mesures qui épuisaient leurs forces en pure perte. Il m'a dit que, quoique personne ne parût s'en douter, il était sûr que les Français passeraient des forces considérables vers *Leipsig*; et si on leur permet, a-t-il ajouté, de s'emparer du pont de Kösen, toute la Saxe est perdue pour nous, et nous verrons ce qui arrivera après. Il m'a déclaré qu'il regardait la résolution du Duc de Brunswick de concentrer l'armée près de Weimar comme un trait de déraison militaire, qui surpassait celle de Mack lorsqu'il s'était enfermé à Ulm; puisque tous les magazins prussiens se trouvaient sur la Sale à Nauembourg, Weissenfels, Mersburg, Halle. condamnait de propos délibéré à mourir de faim dans trois jours : enfin il m'a nettement annoncé que si cela ne changeait pas dès le lendemain, il craignait qu'au jour d'une bataille, qui ne pouvait guères être éloigné, une partie des troupes, excédée de fatigue et de misère, ni fît que médiocrement son devoir; ce fut la première fois que j'entendis prononcer ce mot terrible.

La journée avait été si orageuse, que je n'avais pas même pensé à demander mon logement. En le cherchant à 9 heures du soir je me suis rappellé que, depuis mon arrivée à Weimar, je n'avais pas rencontré le Comte Goetzen. Je me suis fait conduire chez lui. Il était absolument le seul qui ne m'offrit aucun symtome de consternation et d'abattement. je ne m'en suis pas moins apperçu que, sous les dehors du calme et de la sérénité, l'inquiétude était au fond de son ame. Il m'a raconté ce qui s'était passé la veille à Blankenhayn; comment le Roi et la Reine y avaient appris les nouvelles de Saalfeld; dans quel danger ils se trouvaient pendant plusieurs heures, les Français étant entrés à Rudelstadt, á deux lieues du quartier-général; quelles mesures on avait pris dans cette circonstance, où, à la tête de cinquante hussards il s'était rendu, au milieu de la nuit, jusqu'aux portes de Rudelstadt pour bien reconnaitre ce qui s'y passait. En parlant du Duc, et de son camp, et de toute sa conduite, il ne m'a pas donné un éclaircissement, il ne m'a pas fait une réflexion, qui n'eut confirmé et augmenté mes inquiétudes, et justifié tous mes pressentimens.

Je suis à la fin arrivé dans mon logement, excédé d'agitation et de fatigue; mais j'ai cherché en vain le sommeil. Les rues étant encombrés de chevaux, de chariots, de canons, un vacarme horrible s'est prolongé toute la nuit; et l'idée de l'issue épouvantable vers laquelle je voyais avancer cette entreprise, et avec elle les destinées de l'Allemagne et de l'Europe, m'a jetté dans une fièvre d'angoisse dans laquelle j'ai soupiré après

le lendemain.

Dimanche, 12 Octobre.—Je suis sorti à 7 heures pour trouver le Marquis de Lucchesini. Il n'était pas du nombre de ceux qui avaient absolument perdu la tête: cependant, il s'en fallait de beaucoup qu'il fût tel que je l'avais vu jusqu'ici. Il m'a fortement conseillé de partir. J'étais occupé de la Toute prolongation de mon séjour devenait inutile, et quant à mon propre intérèt, j'avoue que je n'avais pas la moindre désir d'assister au dénouement qui se préparait. J'en avais parlé la veille au Comte de Haugwiz. Peutêtre sans bien savoir pourquoi, il avait protesté contre mon projet. M. de Lucchesini en jugea autrement. Il me dit, qu'il était à peu près sûr que les Français poussaient des détachemens sur Nauembourg; que les moyens de partir se diminuaient d'une heure à l'autre; que la première alarme subite qui nécessitât un déplacement, pouvait me mettre dans le cas de ne plus trouver de chevaux nulle-part, et qu'alors je serais obligé de partager leur sort à tout évènement : ces réflexions me déterminèrent.

En rentrant en ville (le Marquis était logé au fauxbourg,) j'ai rencontré une quantité d'officiers de ma connaissance, tous également irrités contre le Duc de Brunswick et ses mesures. Les murmures et les plaintes étaient dans toutes les bouches. Ce qui a un peu rélevé les esprits, c'est qu'à

10 heures le Roi est parti avec le Duc de Brunswick pour conférer avec le Prince de Hohenloe, qui avait établi son quartier-général à Cappellendorff, entre Weimar et Jena. Je les ai vus passer sous les fenêtres du Prince Héréditaire de Weimar, chez lequel j'ai monté pour quelques momens. Le Duc avait l'air déconcerté, le Roi calme mais de très mauvaise humeur, tout autre qu'il me paraissait à Erfurth; c'est la denière fois que je les ai vus.

Arrivé chez le Comte de Haugwiz je l'ai trouvé enfermé avec M. de Beyme. Je suis entré dans la chambre de P. Lombard, qui m'a reçu en larmes. Je lui ai reproché son découragement, et combien il avait tort d'augmenter, au lieu de combattre, celui du Comte de Haugwiz. J'ai voulu lui représenter que rien n'était encore perdu; mais je me suis bientot apperçu que tous mes efforts étaient inutiles, que l'idée d'une catastrophe prochaine et inévitable s'était

emparée de toutes les têtes.

Quand le Comte de Haugwiz a été seul, je lui ai annoncé mon intention sérieuse de quitter le quartier-général; et cette fois-ci, il ne s'y est que faiblement opposé. Je lui ai demandé des passports, un ordre pour les maitres des postes, et quelques autres choses. Il m'a dit que je n'avais qu'à tout expédier selon ma propre convenance; qu'il signerait tout. Je l'ai fait. En signant le passeport, il m'a comblé de choses obligéantes, tant en son nom, qu'en celui du Roi. Il m'a demandé avec instance de ne pas partir avant d'avoir diné avec lui; j'ai pu d'autant plus aisément me rendre à sa proposition que j'étais sûr de n'avoir pas de chevaux avant 4 ou 5 heures du soir.

J'ai ensuite vu le général Phull, qui m'a lu un mémoire qu'il venait de composer à la hâte, sur les mesures à prendre pour le moment. J'ai à peine besoin de dire, qu'il y prouvait la nécessité urgente de quitter sur le champ la position absurde où l'on se trouvait, de se rapprocher des magazins, et d'occuper tous les débouchés de la Sâle, de prévenir l'ennemi sur les points importans de Darnburg, Cambuy, Kösen, Nauenbourg, qu'à la fin on commençait à croire sérieusement menacés. Îl est plus qu'inconcevable que ni le Duc de Brunswick, ni le Prince de Hohenloe, ni aucun autre des généraux dirigeans n'ait voulu se convaincre d'une chose, qui ne pouvait pas échapper à un ignorant, pour peu qu'il eût l'usage de ses sens. Mais le général Phull m'a dit en même tems, que depuis trois jours le Duc ne lui avait pas parlé. Je l'ai fortement engagé à communiquer son mémoire à M. de Lucchesini; puisque, bien ou mal, il était une fois reconnu qu'il était presque le seul que le Duc consultait encore sur ses démarches. avons été le trouver. Le mémoire a été lu. Le général l'accompagna de plusieurs observations très lumineuses. Il a vivement déploré la fatalité qui a fait échouer son plan primitif, approuvé par les hommes les plus capables de l'armée; et d'après lequel, on aurait du se porter avec les premières forces disponibles sur le Meyn, pour y établir le théâtre de la guerre. Il a critiqué sans aucun ménagement le prétendu plan du Duc de Brunswick. Il a exposé avec beaucoup d'énergie sa faiblesse, sa pusillanimité et son inconséquence. Cet entretien, aussi intéressant que pénible, a été interrompu pas l'arrivée de M. de Goethe, qui est venu faire une visite au Marquis: mais cclui-ci a promis que ni le mémoire, ni le commentaire ne seraient perdus pour l'intérèt public; et qu'il en ferait tout son profit. Je ne sais pas si le Duc de Brunswick a jamais reconnu les fautes funestes par lesquelles il avait préparé la ruine de l'armée, et de la monarchie. Dans tous les cas il

les a reconnu trop tard.

Le diner chez le Comte de Haugwiz a été un peu moins triste que celui de la veille, et M. de Lucchesini a tout fait pour l'égayer. On a parlé pour la première fois de l'occupation et de Gera, et de Zeitz, par les troupes françaises; mais toujours comme une expédition passagère, comme d'un léger coup de main, sans que personne ait pu imaginer que toutes leurs forces se portèrent sur ce point. Après le diner, on est venu annoncer que le Roi et le Duc de Brunswick étaient de retour, et que l'armée se mettrait en marche le lendemain. Cependant, aucun ordre n'a été donné. M. de Lucchesini m'a dit que si quelque changement essentiel se faisait jusqu'au lendemain matin, il aurait soin de m'en faire avertir, à l'endroit où je passerais la nuit, pour que je partisse en possession des nouvelles les plus fraiches. My Lord Morpeth, ni aucune personne de la Russie n'était arrivé jusqu'à mon départ.

Après 4 heurs, j'ai dit mes adieux, à tout ce qui était réuni chez M. de Haugwiz. Le moment était tel qu'indépendamment de toute considération personelle, et il est vrai qu'on m'avait traité pendant ce sejour avec une distinction bienveillance extrème, j'aurais été ému en pensant à la situation où je les laissais ; et à l'incertitude lugubre de l'avenir. Le Comte de Haugwiz m'a dit, "j'espère que ce ne sera pas pour long tems. Nous devons nécessairement nous revoir. Si nos affaires vont bien, je vous donne rendezvous à Wurtzbourg; c'est là que nous voulons nous entretenir sur l'arrangement futur de l'Allemagne." Ce furent ses derniers mots; il était vivement attendri, jusqu'à verser

des larmes en me quittant.

J'ai été trouver le général Phull; il m'a donné des conseils sur mon voyage. Mon projet était de gagner Mersburg, aller ensuite soit à Halle, soit à Leipsig, selon les circonstances. Il a fortement protesté contre ce projet. Il m'a dit qu'avant ce soir, les Français seraient infailliblement à Nauembourg, et que demain, en traversant le pays, je pouvais les rencontrer partout. Il m'a demandé ma parole que je prendrais le même chemin par lequel il avait fait partir la Grande Duchesse de Weimar, par Allstedt, et que surtout je ne passerais la Sâle que là où je pourrais le faire en pleinc sûreté.

Je suis parti de Weimar à einq heures. En allant à Buttelstedt, où je devais sejourner la nuit, j'ai entendu de loin le bruit du eanon. Les Français ètaient entrés à Nauembourg. A Buttelstedt eneore une canonade, long tems prolongée, s'est fait entendre par le silence de la nuit. J'ai su ensuite que l'ennemi avait employé eette nuit à démolir

le pont entre Lobeda et Burgan.

Lundi, 13 Octobre.—Je me suis arrêté à Buttelstedt, jusqu' après 9 heures. N'ayant pas eu de nouvelles de M. de Lucehesini, j'ai présumé que rien de décisif n'arriverait aujourd'hui. Ce n'est qu'à midi en effet, que le Due s'est determiné de porter l'armée du Roi sur Auerstedt. M'étant proeurer au poids de l'or deux mauvais ehevaux, j'ai entamé la route d'Allstedt. Arrivé à trois heures dans cet endroit, j'ai annoneé l'intention d'aller à Eisleben; mais personne n'a voulu m'y eonduire. La nuit menaçant de me surprendre, j'ai du me eontenter d'un arrangement moyennant lequel j'ai gagné Langerhausen, où déjà la terreur était entrée avant moi. Mardi, 14 Octobre.—Tout ee que j'ai pu obtenir, e'étaient

Mardi, 14 Octobre.—Tout ee que j'ai pu obtenir, e'étaient des ehevaux de poste pour Mansfeld. Car quand j'ai parlé de Halle, ou seulement de Eisleben, j'ai eu l'air d'avoir nommé le ehemin de l'enfer. L'oceupation subite de Nauembourg, et la retraite de plusieurs divisions de train avaient tellement répandu la consternation, que l'on voyait l'ennemi partout.

En allant à Mansfeld j'ai entendu, au milieu des montagnes qui entourent cette ville, la terrible eanonade qui m'a annoncé l'évènement décisif. Tout était dans des alarmes inexprimables. De Mansfeld, on m'a mené à Sandersleben, où j'ai rencontré le régiment de Natzmer, faisant partie du corps du Prince Eugene de Wurtemburg, qui se portait à marche forcée sur Halle. J'ai voulu passer la Sâle à Alsleben, mais le bae y étant endommagé, j'ai été obligé de descendre jusqu'à Bernburg. J'y suis arrivé à 6 heures du soir, trop heureux d'obtenir la promesse d'avoir des chevaux pour le lendemain : la ville était remplie de Prussiens, appartenant au corps du

Prince de Wurtemburg.

Mercredi, 15 Octobre.—Je suis parti de Bernburg à huit heures. Arrivé à Coethen, j'y ai trouvé deux négoeians anglais venant de Leipsig, les premières personnes qui m'ont dit que les ehoses allaient bien pour la Prusse; que le Prince de Hohenloe avait battu les Français. Je me suis trouvé à Dessau à trois heures. On m'a assuré que le Prince venait de recevoir la nouvelle d'une vietorie eomplète. La ville avait l'air d'un désert. Pas un eheval, quelque chose que j'eusse pu faire. On m'a dit que j'en trouverais plûtôt à Werlitz; et comme e'était le ehemin de Wittenburg, et que de plus, le Prince y étant rendu, j'avais l'espoir d'y vérifier la prétendue nouvelle, j'engageai le postillon de Coethen à m'y eonduire; mais j'ai manqué le Prince, qui était retourné à Dessau par un autre ehemin; et ce n'est qu'avee peine que j'ai obtenu deux chevaux pour le lendemain.

Jeudi, 16 Octobre. Après m'être promené pendant une heure dans ce superbe jardin, tourmenté par des idées qui n'étaient guères en harmonie avec ses beautés, je suis parti pour Wittenburg. J'y ai trouvé à l'auberge Madame la Grande Duchesse Anne, néc Princesse de Cobourg, deux Messieurs Taroleff, Russes, et plusieurs négotians de Berlin, revenant de Leipsig. L'allégresse était générale. Quatre différentes lettres de Leipsig, du 14 and 15, qu'on m'a données à lire, annoncerent la défaite totale des Français. Pas un homme à Wittenberg qui en eût douté un instant. Pendant que je m'y trouvais, le Prince Antoine de Radzivill est arrivé de Berlin, pour se rendre au quartier-général, et y recueillir des détails sur la catastrophe de son illustre beau-frère. lui ai parlé longtems. Il m'a dit que cet évènement avait produit à Berlin une consternation profonde, et que l'état dans lequel se trouvait Madame la Princesse Louise ne pouvait pas se concevoir. J'ai ensuite continué ma route sur Torgau, où je suis arrivé à minuit, et où la victoire des Prussiens était répandue comme partout ailleurs.

Vendredi, 17 Octobre.—Parti de Torgau à 7 heures, je suis arrivé à 2 heures à Groffenhayn. Là on se berçait de victoires. Les officiers Saxons que j'y ai rencontré, ont fait l'observation que depuis deux jours on n'entendait plus aucun coup de feu. Ils en ont induit que la guerre s'éloignait, et que tout allait à merveille. Enfin je suis arrivé à Dresde. C'est là seulement que les plus épouvantables nouvelles sont venues fondre sur moi. J'y avais été précédé de quelques heures par le premier avis de la bataille perdue, et presque avec moi était arrivé le Major de Tunk, qui en a annoncé les premières suites

pour la Saxe.

Je me suis félicité pour mon compte des faux bruits qui m'avaient considérablement adouci les deux derniers jours de ce triste voyage; mais bientôt j'ai été cruellement payé de tout ce qui m'avait été épargné par là de peines et de désolation; et lorsque j'ai quitté Dresde, deux jours après, les portes de l'espérance ont paru se fermer derrière moi sur l'Allemagne et sur l'Europe.

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HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

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HIS MAJESTY THE KING has been pleased to ratify and confirm the terms of the Commission issued by Her late Majesty, appointing certain Commissioners to ascertain what unpublished MSS. are extant in the collections of private persons and in institutions, which are calculated to throw light upon subjects connected with the Civil, Ecclesiastical, Literary, or Scientific History of this country; and to appoint certain additional Commissioners for the same purposes. The present Commissioners are:—

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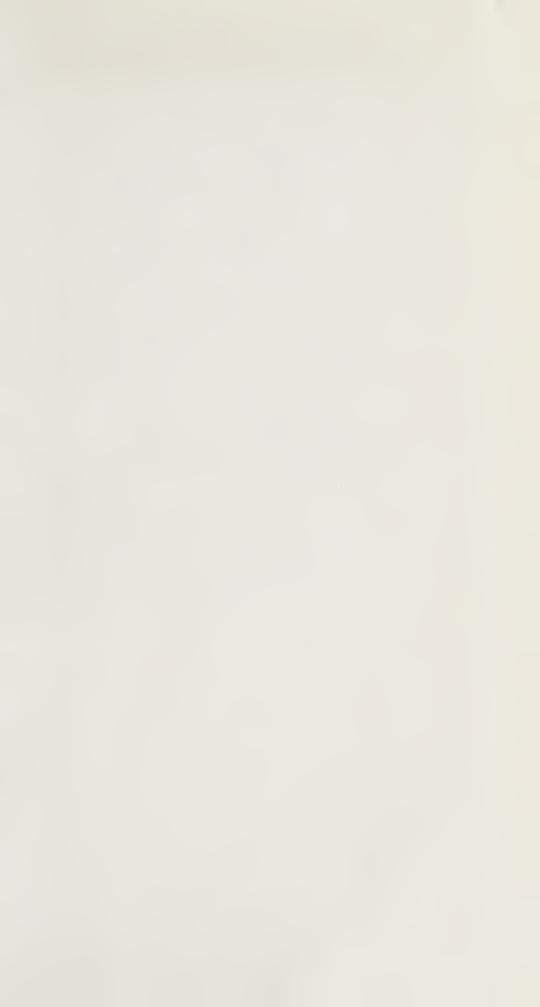
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1910 1911	Manuscripts of Lord Polwarth. Vol. I Ditto. Earl of Denbigh, at Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire. Part V.	Cd. 5289 Cd. 5565	$\begin{array}{ccc} 2 & 11 \\ 1 & 7 \end{array}$
1911	Ditto. Lord Middleton, at Wollaton Hall	Cd. 5567	3 0
1911	Ditto. Pepys, Magdalene College, Cambridge	Cd. 5721	1 7

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